

Shape Memory and Superelastic Technologies Society announce the 2026 William J. Buehler recipient Tom Duerig, FASM.

The SMST William J. Buehler Award shall recognize excellence in Shape Memory or Superelastic Alloy (SMA) technical innovation. This Award shall recognize those who have provided an exceptional amount of effort and valuable return on effort in their service to advancing Shape Memory and Superelastic Alloy Technology.



Dr. Tom Duerig, FASM is the founder of Nitinol Devices & Components (NDC), now Confluent Medical Technologies, and one of the world's foremost authorities on the engineering and medical application of Nitinol. He pioneered Nitinol's use in medical devices in the late 1980s while at Raychem Corporation, then founded NDC in 1991. He sold NDC to Johnson & Johnson in 1997, remaining as president through 2008 while helping develop the SMART stent line and Trap Ease vena cava filter within J&J's Cordis division, where he also served on the Cordis

management board and Advanced R&D group. He re-acquired NDC in 2008 and merged it with Interface Catheter Solutions to form Confluent Medical Technologies, from which he retired formally in 2019.

Together with Alan Pelton and Darel Hodgson, Dr. Duerig co-founded SMST in 1992 and organized its inaugural conference in 1994, serving as founding President. He has served as Associate Editor of Shape Memory and Superelasticity, the official SMST journal. In 2019, he personally endowed the SMST Founders' Grant, a \$50,000 biennial award, ensuring continued support for emerging SMA research in perpetuity.

Dr. Duerig has authored more than 100 patents and publications, including the foundational 1990 book *Engineering Aspects of Shape Memory Alloys* (Butterworth-Heinemann) and the landmark 1999 paper *An Overview of Nitinol Medical Applications*. He holds a B.S. in Physics from Lehigh University and M.S., M.E., and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science from Carnegie Mellon University. His legacy is further honored by the Thomas W. Duerig Fund for Innovation in Mechanical Engineering, established at UC Santa Barbara by his colleagues, collaborators, and family.

Tom is being honored “For co-founding SMST, pioneering Nitinol's medical applications, endowing the SMST Founders' Grant, authoring more than 100 patents and publications, and for over four decades of transformative leadership in shape memory alloy technology”.