

About the Author

Richard B. Wells holds the rank of Professor at the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID, with appointments to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, the Materials Science and Engineering Program in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, and the Department of Philosophy. He is also appointed affiliate to the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Wells received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Idaho in 1985, his Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1979, and his Bachelor of Science Degree with Distinction in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University in 1975. His teaching career began in 1974 at Iowa State. He was appointed affiliate to the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Idaho in 1981 and became a member of the regular faculty and the graduate faculty in 1993.

From 1975 to 1993 he was employed by the Hewlett Packard Company. There he held positions as Research & Development Engineer, Project Leader, Project Manager, and Production Engineering Manager. Since 1976 he has owned and operated his own private investment business. Prior to starting college he owned and operated a small private retail and trucking business dealing in fresh bakery goods.

Dr. Wells is a Registered Professional Engineer, registered in the State of Idaho, and is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He holds four United States Patents and authored one textbook on Coding and Information Theory for Engineers as well as several on-line books and articles on the subjects of computational neuroscience, the Critical Philosophy, and mental physics. Some of his papers have been honored with "Best Paper" or "Editor's Choice" awards or recognitions by journals or at conferences. He has been honored with two "Best Teacher" awards by his students and one "Best Researcher" award by his peers. In 1999 he was honored by the Hewlett Packard Company by being designated a Hewlett Packard Master Researcher, one of only six such designees in the world at that time.

Dr. Wells is founder and director of the Wells Laboratory for Computational Neuroscience and Technology Research. He is past director of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience and past associate director of the Microelectronics Research and Communication Institute, both at the University of Idaho. He is currently associate chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Wells serves on the University Curriculum Committee, is chair of the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Curriculum Committee, and member of the Neuroscience Curriculum Committee. He has in the past served on the University of Idaho Research Council, the University Wide Programs Committee, and the University Selection Committee for the Department of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DoD-EPSCoR). He has served as an External Reviewer for the National Science Foundation and as a National Science Foundation Review Panelist for the Professional Science Masters Program, a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

He has served as Major Professor for more than fifty graduate students and as a member of more than seventy other graduate student committees for students studying in various disciplines. He annually serves as academic advisor for fifteen to twenty-five undergraduate students. His Laboratory Website, containing numerous electronic books, tutorial articles and papers, currently receives from eighteen thousand to twenty-three thousand hits per month coming from every continent except Antarctica.