The American Physical Society (APS) has awarded the 2016 W.K.H. Panofsky Prize in Experimental Particle Physics to Stephen Olsen, Fumihiko Takasaki, Jonathan Dorfan and David Hitlin. This is the highest award of the APS for experimental particle physics and recognizes the B factory experiments (Belle at KEK and BaBar at SLAC), which observed large CP violation (matter-antimatter asymmetry) in the B meson sector in 2001, and which provided the experimental confirmation of the Kobayashi-Maskawa hypothesis for the origin of CP violation, which was later recognized by 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Steve Olsen was a faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) from 1992-2009. He led the high energy physics group at UHM for many years and was one of the founders of the Belle experiment at KEK in Tsukuba, Japan. In addition to his work on CP violation (matter-antimatter asymmetries), he discovered a series of unexpected new particles referred to as the X, Y and Z mesons. These have revolutionized the field of hadron spectroscopy in particle physics. Steve Olsen was also one of the first western scientists to do collaborative research in particle physics in Japan and China. Upon retirement he moved to Seoul National University and is at now working on the AMORE double-beta decay experiment at the Center for Underground Physics in Daejeon, Korea.