

Richard C. Waters
ACM Distinguished Scientist
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1999–2023, President and CEO, Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs (MERL).

2023–2024, Chairman MERL. 2024–, Fellow Emeritus.

As president of MERL, Dr. Waters led the 80-person North American research and development operation of Mitsubishi Electric Company. His central challenge was creating a culture that leads to results that are both scientifically significant and of significant economic benefit to MERL’s parent company. Under his guidance, MERL was transformed from a geographically dispersed collection of small labs into a single unified lab with much greater impact on Mitsubishi Electric. Because MERL is a stand-alone company, Dr. Waters oversaw independent HR and financial operations (including a licensing program) as well as research.

1991–99, Senior Research Scientist, then Research Fellow, MERL.

1998–00, Director, MERL Cambridge Research Lab.

Dr. Waters was a founding member of MERL and contributed to the management of MERL as a whole from its inception. However, his initial focus was leading research on distributed virtual environments for education and collaboration—computer systems where multiple users interact in real time over the Internet in 3D visual and audio environments—which foreshadowed the Internet-based, massively multi-player, virtual environments that now attract millions of users.

1978–91, Research Scientist, then Principal Research Scientist, MIT AI Laboratory.

Co-principal investigator, Programmer’s Apprentice project seeking the creation of a system that could assist programmers in developing and maintaining computer programs.

Supervised 2 PhD, 8 MS and 7 BS theses. Obtained 15 research grants. Consulted to 9 companies.

Publications and Patents

H-index 36. 62 publications with 10+ citations. 15 patents. (For details see “www.rcwaters.org”.)

Board of Trustees, The Carroll School (Lincoln MA), 2010–. (Chairman 2015–21, Treasurer 2024–.)

Helping support the growth of this premier school for students with Dyslexia

President, John L. and Geraldine R. Weil Memorial Charitable Foundation, 1999–.

Managing the actives of this small charity working to ameliorate the effects of child abuse.

Board of Directors, YMCA of Greater Boston, 2006–2015. (Treasurer, 2011–14.)

Supporting one of the biggest YMCA organizations in the US.

Board of Directors, Computing Research Association, 2002–11. (Executive Committee, 2005–07.)

Supporting collaboration between research labs and PhD granting university departments.

ACM Job Migration Task Force, 2004–05.

Lead author of the report chapter on the globalization of IT research.

ANSI Common Lisp standard Committee (X3J13), 1987-90.

Major technical contributor to this groundbreaking programming language.

Education

1978, PhD in Computer Science (specialization in Artificial Intelligence; minor in linguistics), MIT.

1973, MS in Applied Mathematics (specialization in Computer Science), Harvard.

1972, BS in Applied Mathematics (specialization in Computer Science), Brown.

A life-long resident of New England, Dr. Waters is married with four children.