Dr. Sidney Drell
Professor of Theoretical Physics (Emeritus)
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Dr. Sidney Drell is a physicist and arms control specialist. Since 1960 he has been active in providing technical advice to the Government on national security issues, most recently as a member of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He currently serves as an adviser to the Los Alamos National Lab and is an active member of JASON.

Dr. Drell earned his B.A. degree from Princeton University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. A faculty member of Stanford University since 1956, among many honors Dr. Drell received a MacArthur Foundation prize fellowship, the Enrico Fermi Award, and the Heinz R. Pagels Human Rights of Scientists Award. In 2001 he was presented the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed by the U.S. Intelligence Community. He is also one of 10 scientists honored by the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office as “Founders of national reconnaissance as a space discipline.”

His most recent book “The Gravest Danger: Nuclear Weapons”, co-authored with Ambassador James Goodby, was published by the Hoover Institute Press.

The Gravest Danger:
Nuclear Weapons and their Proliferation

Nuclear weapons are unique in their terrifying potential. With an energy release a million times larger than that of previous explosives, mass destruction is inevitable. The prospect of the spread of nuclear weapons and other dangerous technologies into the hands of suicidal terrorists and rogue nations unrestrained by the norms of civilized behavior has led President Bush to remark that “the gravest danger our nation faces lies at the crossroads of radicalism and technology.” This talk will address what can and should be done, in the face of new challenges in times punctuated by terrorist threats, to sustain and strengthen the non-proliferation regime, taking into consideration technical realities, and the roles and limits of diplomatic initiatives and of military force.

Refreshments to follow in Room 2-222 in Leonard Lounge