

IUPAP Early Career Science Prize 2024 & 2025

Some of the Commissions evaluate and present awards for scientific achievement through cash awards and/or medals (these awards are handled separately from other IUPAP sponsored awards). The information on the awardees is generally shared in due time with the IUPAP Secretariat at secretariat@iupap.org which is also posted on IUPAP website at communication@iupap.org and on social networks, newsletter, and included in the Union's records. All commissions award the IUPAP Early Career Science Prize (ECSP). Individual Commissions are empowered and responsible for organizing the call and selection process for the prizes. ECSPs are intended for researchers who have obtained their Ph.D within 8 years of the year of the call. However, justifiable career interruptions (due to maternity or health reasons) should be taken into consideration for extending this requirement. The nomination package should contain a statement signed by the nominator stating that "to the best of their knowledge, there are no concerns that IUPAP should be aware of regarding the nominee not satisfying the expectation that he/she meets the commonly held standards of professional ethics and scientific integrity". We in the IUPAP Executive Council (EC) are discussing an effective way to avoid duplicate nominations for more than one ECSP. The Commissions should ensure that there is diversity in the pool of candidates, particularly in terms of gender and geographical representation. The call should include specific statement encouraging nominators to consider diversity when submitting nominations. The Commission Chairs (CCs) should monitor the submissions and send follow up reminders stressing the need for diversity. In case that at the time of the closing, the pool of candidates is far from being diverse, the deadline can (and should) be extended.

The ECSPs are awarded at a mean frequency of once per year. Some Commissions do this annually; while others bunch these prizes once every two or three years. An ECSP consist of a monetary award of CHF1000, a medal and a certificate. The IUPAP Secretariat takes care of the monetary prize and the medal, for which a special budgetary allocation is approved by the General Assembly (GA). The CCs are in charge of printing out, signing and giving the certificates according to the template provided by EC. The CCs inform the IUPAP Secretariat before issuing the call for nominations for awards via email containing the announcement to secretariat@iupap.org and communication@iupap.org so that it would be advertised on the IUPAP website and disseminated through social media. Commissions can (and should) use other means of dissemination of the call. CCs contact the IUPAP Secretariat after the decision on the awardees is made. To proceed further, the IUPAP needs a citation, a good quality photograph and a short CV of each awardee, their contact information, postal addresses where the medal and certificate should be sent to and the bank details where the monetary award should be deposited. Some Commissions invite the awardees to their flagship conferences where they are presented the medals and certificates. It is advisable that each awardee contribute a brief written piece on their research for inclusion in the IUPAP newsletter. The CCs may contact their predecessor to learn about the prizes awarded and the details of handling them.

More recently the Interdisciplinary Early Career Science Prize (IECSP) was established. The first awards (for 2022 and 2023) to recognize research that combines the subfields addressed by more than one IUPAP Commission, Affiliated Commission or Working Group, were decided in 2023. The EC will issue a new call and as done for 2022-2023, and would ask nominators to select at least two Commissions, or a Commission and a WG or an Affiliated Commission, at the time of nomination. The Chairs of the Commissions that were selected by the nominators would form part of the IECSP evaluation committee. The EC may seek the assistance of many of you to decide on the award. **The development of a new instrument, a new experimental technique or a new method of data analysis / interpretation in one field invariably results in application in other fields, leading to interdisciplinary research. Thus inclusion of such developments that foster interdisciplinary research in the calls for nominations may lead to a more effective and comprehensive response from the nominators.** Of course, all of these details would be discusses at the first EC&CC meeting in January 2025. Self-nominations are not allowed for any of the awards.

