

# EPS – QEOD awards

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# Overview of QEOD awards (1/2)

- PhD/doctoral students
  - Travel grants (for CLEO/Europe – EQEC and Europhoton conferences)
  - Thesis prize (2 applied, 2 fundamental – every 2 years)
- Early-career researchers
  - Fresnel prize (1 applied, 1 fundamental – every 2 years) – for outstanding contributions before the age of 35

# Overview of QEOD awards (2/2)

- Senior awards

- Quantum Electronics and Optics Prize (1 applied, 1 fundamental – every 2 years) – main award of division, tied to CLEO/Europe – EQEC conference
- Research into the Science of Light Prize (fundamental – every 2 years) – tied to Nanometa conference
- Research into Laser Science and Applications Prize (applied - every 2 years) – tied to Europhoton conference
- Vladilen Letokhov Medal (awarded jointly with AMOPD and RAS) – presently suspended

# Typical procedure (thesis, Fresnel, and QEO awards)

- No self-nominations
- Selection committee consists of 7 persons
  - QEOD chair (and secretary – for QEO prize)
  - EPS president (Luc typically turns down request due to his role in Executive Committee)
  - Addtl. members a mix of QEOD board members and additional experts (typically from associated conference; for Fresnel prize: former winners)
  - QEOD chair is typically not committee chair
- Committee members independently score nomination files
- Committee meets to select winner(s)
- Jury report with proposed winner(s) is submitted to EPS Executive Committee for final approval

# Diversity considerations

- EPS QEOD board: geographically broad, 6 f, 6 m
- CLEO/Europe – EQEC general and program chairs (8 in total): 3 f, 5 m in 2023, sub-committees: strongly depends on sub-committee chairs
- Europhoton much less balanced -> have been made aware of this
  
- Diversity tends not to be an issue for the composition of the award committees (typically, e.g., one third to one half women; geographically broad)

# What are the issues then?

- Not enough high-quality nominations (too many prizes!)
  - 2023 thesis prize: 13 nominations, 3 f
  - 2023 Fresnel prize: 4 nominations, 1 f
  - 2023 QEO prize: 8 nominations, 1 f
  - 2024 science of light prize: 5 nominations, 1 f – only 1 nomination received by the deadline
- Committee members are asked to encourage nomination of suitable female candidates
- Increasing the pool of nominees makes it easier to ensure a balanced selection of awardees (ideally, nominees are already balanced...)

# How to increase nomination numbers?

- Advertisement: what can we do better?
- Abandon some prizes
  - "Silently" abandoning a prize should be less "harmful" to previous winners than repeatedly not awarding it due to insufficient quality of nominations
- How to increase diversity of nominees? (likely quantity already helps..)
- Why no self-nominations?