HUPO Awards committee report for 2018   HUPO Awards Chair: Prof. Robert Moritz (USA)

The HUPO Awards committee is chartered by the HUPO EC to solicit nominations, organize voting on suitable candidates and recommend candidates in one of 5 HUPO Awards categories. This committee is active each year and provides distinguished scientist engaged with HUPO recognition for the work conducted at the very highest levels.

2018 HUPO Awards Committee

For 2018, the HUPO Awards committee was revamped to include all regions of HUPO (Eastern (Asia/Oceania), Western (The Americas) and Central (Europe/Africa) and to represent an equal basis of gender (see https://www.hupo.org/Awards-Committee-Members). The Awards committee totaled 32 members who agreed to stand for 2018 and 2019 (1 resigning early in 2018 for personal reasons). The HUPO Awards committee was selected from a broad selection of HUPO members being younger as well as older distinguished members of HUPO to provide a truly representative service to the organization. This committee for 2018 is chartered to deliberate on potential nominees as put forward for consideration of the 3 HUPO Awards (Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award, Discovery in Proteomic Sciences Award and the Distinguished Achievement in Proteomic Sciences Award. A fourth HUPO Award, the Science & Technology award was selected by the HUPO Industrial Advisory Board and the result sent to the Awards committee and the HUPO EC for ratification.

2018 HUPO Awards Committee Members:

EASTERN REGION

Bonghee Lee, Republic of Korea

Fei Fang, China

Henry Lam, China

Hosseini Salekdeh, Iran

Laura Dagley, Australia

Mathias Rommel, Australia

Maxey Ching Ming Chung, Singapore

Michelle Hill, Australia

Shamshad Zarina, Pakistan

Subhra Chakraborty, India

CENTRAL REGION

Concha Gil, Spain

Elena Ponomarenko, Russia

Jochen Schwenk, Sweden

Magnus Palmblad, Netherlands

Nicolai Bache, Denmark

Paola Roncada, Italy

Ruth Birner-Gruenberger, Austria

Yves Vandenbrouck, France

WESTERN REGION

Robert Moritz, USA (Chair)	Ralph Bradshaw, USA
W. Andy Tao,USA	Reinhild Kappelhoff, Canada
Birgit Schilling, USA	Sergio Encarnacion-Guevara, Mexico
Catherine Fenselau, USA	Susan Weintraub, USA
Hannes Rost, Canada	Tatiane De Rossi, Brazil
Pierre Thibault, Canada	Yansheng Liu, USA

Committee objectives

Each year, a call is sent out from the HUPO office to all HUPO members for nominees for the categories presented and nominations are provided from HUPO members for one of 3 yearly awards bestowed by the HUPO organization to recognize achievements in the field of proteomics. Of the five HUPO Awards categories, four of these are selected by the HUPO Awards committee, whereas one of these (Science & Technology) is selected by the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) for recommendation to the HUPO Awards committee. The five total HUPO Awards categories are:

1. Clinical & Translational Proteomics
2. Discovery in Proteomics
3. Distinguished Achievement in Proteomics
4. Science & Technology (IAB selection)
5. Distinguished Service (bi-annual and not considered for 2018)

Awards process

For 2018, the HUPO Office employed a new web-based voting system called "Judgify" so that members can vote from their workstation, regardless of their geographical location and at their leisure, after reading each nomination and selecting the best candidate in each category. The HUPO Office tallies the votes and the HUPO Awards chair notifies the Awards committee of the result. In addition, previous nominees obtained over the past 3 years for HUPO Awards are also reselected for nomination to provide a considered field for awards deliberations by the HUPO awards committee.

For the 2018 awards categories of Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award, Discovery in Proteomic Sciences Award and the Distinguished Achievement in Proteomic Sciences Award, any HUPO member can nominate candidates directly by providing names, possible seconders to support the nomination and short statements detailing why the person nominated is worthy of the award in the category chosen. The HUPO office collates all the responses from HUPO members and formulated the Judgify web voting tool to the chair of the HUPO Awards committee. In 2018, the HUPO Awards chair (Prof R. Moritz (USA)) convened multiple discussion and tutorial sessions for the entire Awards committee in each region to instruct and assist the HUPO Awards committee members on their voting. Each member is assigned a unique passkey to Judgify and the voting was conducted via the web. GoToMeetings were arranged by the HUPO Office to facilitate discussion and deliberation of an award and to answer any questions the committee members may have so that each member was at ease in voting. Each HUPO Awards category was voted on by single votes from the HUPO Awards committee and forwarded blinded to the HUPO Office. If there is a conflict-of-interest with any member of the HUPO Awards committee, that person abstained from voting in the HUPO Awards category in conflict.

For 2018 the award nominees were selected from the following totals nominees:

1. Clinical & Translational Proteomics   6 from 2018 (4 previous nominations, 2 new)
2. Discovery in Proteomic Sciences   6 from 2018 (5 previous nominations, 1 new)
3. Distinguished Achievement   5 from 2018 (2 previous nominations, 3 new)
4. Science & Technology (IAB selection)   5 from 2018 (4 previous nominations, 1 new)

For 2018, the HUPO Awards committee had conducted two votes based on an extensive field of candidates for three awards: Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award, Discovery in Proteomic Sciences Award and the Distinguished Achievement in Proteomic Sciences Award. The first vote was conducted as a vote of all candidates which resulted in close votes. Upon discussion with HUPO EC, the EC asked the HUPO Awards committee to conduct a second runoff vote based on only the top candidates and the result was also as to close to call. To finalize the vote, the EC asked for a decisive conclusion to provide close candidates equal weight and provide a final HUPO awards list for ratification. To also be transparent of the awards committee, several members abstained from voting in categories that represented a conflict of interest, these being Maxey Chung (Singapore), Pierre Thibault (Canada), Andy Tao (USA), and Robert Moritz (USA).

Outcomes of the voting were tabulated and sent to the HUPO Awards chair for tabulation and then presented by GoToMeeting to the HUPO EC during the monthly HUPO EC business call. The HUPO EC then deliberates and ratifies the HUPO Awards committee decisions. The HUPO EC also has veto power if there is a compelling reason to do so. Upon final HUPO EC ratification, the award is bestowed on the nominee with the expectation that the person will be present at the HUPO congress, is a standing HUPO member, and will provide a short lecture on the work leading to the nomination and award they are selected for. If by some chance the HUPO Awards nominee cannot attend the HUPO congress in September, as required for the award, then the award is then bestowed on the second-place nominee. For even votes for multiple nominees after a re-vote is conducted at the request of the HUPO Awards committee chair, the decision can be made to split the award amongst two nominees. For 2018, the Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award and the Discovery in Proteomic Sciences Award were split, and the 2018 Awards committee unilaterally agreed to this outcome.

The final HUPO award for Science & Technology is determined from nominations of the IAB members and selected using a single member per vote system from the IAB members. The HUPO Science & Technology Award recognizes an individual or team in private industry who played a key role in commercialization of a proteomics technology, product, or procedure. The emphasis for the Science & Technology award is on making the technology, product, or procedure widely available, which is different from the basic scientific invention. Contrary to the rules for other HUPO Awards, the HUPO Science and Technology Award is only open to individuals and teams in private industry. The final selected nomination from the IAB is then forwarded to the HUPO Awards committee for deliberation and ratification of the IAB vote.

For 2018, we congratulate the winners:
Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award (2018 split award)
      Peipei Ping (USA) (HUPO member since 2004) - Female
      Bernd Bodenmiller (Switzerland) (HUPO member since 2014) - Male
Discovery in Proteomic Sciences Award (2018 split award)
      Ulrike Kusebauch (USA) (HUPO member since 2009) - Female
      Joshua Coon (USA) (HUPO member since 2018) - Male
Distinguished Achievement in Proteomic Sciences Award
      Kathryn K. Lilley (UK) (HUPO member since 2008) – Female

Science & Technology Award (IAB)
  Drs. Syka, Schwartz, Earley and Mullen (Thermo-Fisher Scientific) – Males

Awards committee future goals

With the establishment of an online voting page called "Judgify", many HUPO Awards committee members found it far easier to read the descriptions, cast their votes, and the HUPO Office to tabulate the results all within the single form. Some members did have difficulty in navigating the page and additional help was provided by the HUPO Awards chair and the HUPO Office to ensure all members were successful in navigating the Judgify system. We acknowledged some of the difficulties and corrected these as we progressed knowing that as we tried this new system for the first time, we would have a few hiccups, but the advantages outweighed any minor difficulties given the wide geographic representation of the HUPO awards committee. We feel this new process was a success, but we also acknowledge we have some further bugs to work out to make it even smoother and easier for next year's voting round.

In 2018, many members complained about the vastly differing documentation provided for each candidate that were listed as being inconsistent (extensively long for some candidates and very little for others), no clear indications for some candidates as to the category of award being considered, and no information as to the gender of the candidate. Many of these items are things we overlook in our daily lives but become quite evident when many different cultures worldwide come together in a single effort such as the HUPO Awards. The 2018 Award committee process was truly remarkable given the breadth of participation, and we take the awards discussion items seriously for action in 2019. Going forward into 2019, a number of other initiatives are being considered and acted on for the HUPO awards to further improve the process and get a truly wide nomination base.