



The Division of the History of Chemistry
American Chemical Society



Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award

Definition of Award criteria

The Citations for Chemical Breakthrough award recognizes breakthrough publications, books and patents worldwide in the field of chemistry. The term “breakthrough” refers to advances in chemistry that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. The award will consist of a very high quality plaque (see examples on the pages listing previous awardees on this website), to be placed at a site selected by the recipient near the office or laboratory where the breakthrough was achieved. Each award will be made to the department or institution where the breakthrough occurred, not to the individual scientist(s).

Elaboration of criteria

“Revolutionary” implies some sort of change in practice or theory after the appearance of the patent or publication.

“Broad in scope” implies an advance that permeates a sub-discipline of chemistry, or that has applications in more than one sub-discipline, or that has a significant benefit to society.

“Long-term” implies a minimum of twenty five years since the date of publication.

Nomination process

Nominations are open to all interested parties. Each nomination should be made on the form provided elsewhere on this website. A nomination consists of complete publication (or patent) reference and a short (200 words maximum) justification. The justification should relate to the awards criteria. Science Citation information may be used but is not required. All materials shall be forwarded to Committee Secretary electronically at: hist_ccb@yahoo.com. Each nomination should be accompanied by the name, address and e-mail address of the nominator.

Award selection process

Committee Secretary (non-voting) places call for nominations. The number of award winners will be first based on the funds available for the purchase of the award

plaques, as determined by the HIST Executive Committee and communicated in advance to the Awards Committee, and second, based on the number of qualified nominations, as determined by the Awards Committee. Ten is the maximum number per year.

Committee Secretary assembles information.

All communications between Committee Secretary and Committee members will be done by e-mail.

Committee Secretary forwards a concise nomination package to each Awards Committee member, along with a Voting Form.

The selection process is as follows. Each Committee member gives 10 points to his/her highest priority section, 9 points to the second priority selection, and ultimately 1 point to the 10th priority selection. The votes are sent to the Committee Secretary who adds them up. The nominations having the ten highest total votes are the winners.

Committee Secretary informs Committee members and HIST Chair of results.

Unsuccessful nominations will be automatically considered for the following three years.