



European Association of Geochemistry



www.eag.eu.com

2017 EAG AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – NEW CRITERIA

To ensure the recognition of deserving scientists from all generations, your nomination can make a difference. Below is a short description of EAG Awards and the criteria for candidates.



The **Urey Award** recognizes outstanding contributions that have advanced geochemistry over a career.



The **Science Innovation Award** subject area differs every year according to a five-year cycle. This award recognizes important and innovative breakthroughs by scientists within 30 years from the start of PhD (which must be completed). Hence, candidates for the 2017 award should have started their PhD in 1986 at the earliest. In 2017, the award will honour Heinz Lowenstam for his work in biogeochemistry.



The **Houtermans Award** recognizes a single exceptional contribution to geochemistry, published as a single paper, or a series of paper on a single topic, and is bestowed to scientists within 12 years from the start of PhD (which must be completed). Hence, candidates for the 2017 award should have started their PhD in 2004 at the earliest.

The **GS/EAG Geochemical Fellows Award** is bestowed upon outstanding scientists who have made major contributions to the field of geochemistry.



Please submit your nominations **before 31 October 2016 for the GS/EAG Geochemical Fellows and before 15 November 2016 for all other awards**. All details are available at www.eag.eu.com/awards/nomination.

GOOD TO KNOW...

Early career scientists. There is a new section on the EAG website entitled 'Early Career' which lists the various programs EAG has put in place to support junior researchers. We also recently added a database of available geochemistry programs, short courses and bursaries. Check www.eag.eu.com/early-career

Posting job ads on the EAG website is free. All job ads will be advertised in social media and in the EAG newsletter, which is sent monthly to over 12,000 scientists from the geochemical community. Check www.eag.eu.com/jobs

Looking for bloggers. If you're interested in blogging about Earth sciences, or science communication in general, you could post on the EAG Blog (blog.eag.eu.com). Posts are shared on social media and in the newsletters. If interested, contact office@eag.eu.com.

2016 DISTINGUISHED LECTURE PROGRAM



We are thrilled to announce the selection of Prof. Alexandre Anesio (University of Bristol, UK) as this year's Distinguished Lecturer. Alexandre Anesio's research interests are broad and combine concepts from geography, biology and chemistry to understand the carbon cycle in the cryosphere. He will be visiting several institutions in Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine in October 2016. Find out more at www.eag.eu.com/outreach/dlp.

WRITING NOMINATION AND SUPPORT LETTERS

Recognizing the achievements of researchers at various career stages by presenting awards and honors is one of the most important roles of any scientific society. In order to strive towards excellence, we need to be able to recognize it. Furthermore, there needs to be some consensus as to how excellence is defined. One of the best ways to exercise our right to define excellence is to nominate a colleague who we think exemplifies it and to justify this by writing a persuasive nomination letter.

There is no prescribed structure as to how to write a nomination or support letter but committees look most favorably on letters that are detailed and specific about the contributions the nominee has made. Letters which just state that the candidate is a good scientist and has written some interesting papers are rarely successful.

An award committee may, in ideal circumstances, have many nominations to examine. Each package will include a nomination and up to 3 letters, so it is imperative to make the information as concise as possible. Many successful nomination and support letters are no longer than 2 pages (excluding headings).

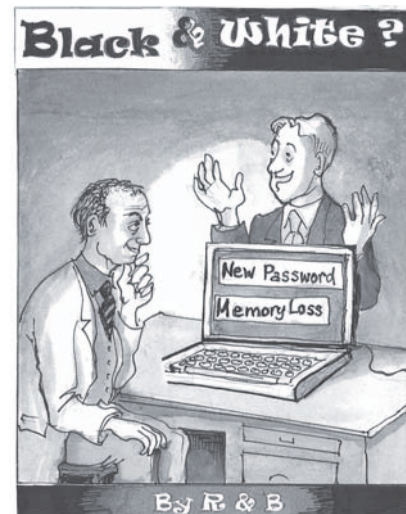
The letter must explain why the candidate deserves this award, what contributions they have made and the impact of their contributions. How has their work changed the field and what new work or insights have been stimulated as a result? Because the award committee may be confronted with many such impressive records, it is essential to make the candidates achievements stand out by being quite specific as to why they are special.

Many successful letters are able to express to non-specialists the broad significance of one or two specific accomplishments. An effective way to do this is by detailing each of the achievements in a separate paragraph, each of which explains, for example, the nature of a long-standing problem, grounds as to why the field may have been at an impasse, the way in which the candidate advanced that problem and how the field has responded to this work.

Supporting letters, while similarly recognizing a candidate's major achievements, should also try to focus on other aspects of their work not mentioned in the nomination. Although most scientific awards focus on scientific excellence, some colleagues have made important impacts on the field by organizing or facilitating large-scale scientific objectives, such as expeditions or infrastructure development. Many scientists have also dedicated time to advance meetings, societies, journals, outreach or teaching, and this service can also tip the balance once a short list is assembled.

A final point. Even for some of the most prestigious awards there are sometimes only a handful of nominations. This means that, if you know of a colleague who merits an award, it is well worth taking the time to make a nomination. It may be much easier than you think to make a successful nomination.

See how to make a nomination at www.eag.eu.com/awards/nomination.



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