

Awards for Excellence

Mission:

The CPDD Awards Committee is responsible for the six awards given by the organization: the Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award, the Marian Fischman Lectureship Award for An Outstanding Woman Scientist, the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, the J. Michael Morrison Award, the CPDD Mentorship Award, and the CPDD Media Award. The Awards Committee administers all but the Media Award. The Media Committee administers the Media Award with the concurrence of the Awards Committee.

Committee Members:

The President-Elect of CPDD appoints the committee; a committee chair is also designated. Each committee member usually serves a three-year term and the number of members is odd in order to eliminate the potential for tie votes. There must be a forced choice among nominations so that a tie with two winners will not be acceptable. In agreeing to be appointed to the committee, the committee member agrees that she/he will not be a candidate for any award during the term of their Awards Committee Membership. Further, they agree that their spouse or partner or member of their immediate family would be ineligible to be nominated for an award while the member is serving their term on the committee. Committee members should not be involved in any award nomination during their term on the committee.

Committee Operations:

A call for nominations is issued in the annual meeting announcement and should be posted at each annual meeting and continued on the website. In addition, the chair sends letters to the nominators whose nominees did not win, reminding them that they can re-nominate a former candidate. The letter will state that this does not imply that the candidate will win since it is based on merit and the candidates vary each year. The announcements include the description of the six awards, the due date, and the link for submitting nomination packets. Five awards are given every year (Eddy, Fischman, Cochin, Mentorship, Media) and one is given every other year (Morrison). The announcements will clearly state that merit is the primary criterion, diversity is encouraged, and all discussions of the Awards committee are confidential.

Individuals can only nominate one person for an award, but are permitted to submit nominations for more than one award, with the restriction that he/she cannot nominate the same person for more than one award in the same year. Separate letters for each nominee are required; one letter signed by several nominators will not be accepted. A separate list of publications is no longer required; this information can be derived from the CV.

Completed nominations are due by February 1 and must be submitted electronically via the CPDD website. Late or incomplete nominations are not considered.

Approximately one to two weeks after the nomination deadline, the Committee Chair electronically sends completed applications, instructions for scoring, and a score sheet to all Awards Committee members. Each member chooses among the applicants in each category and sends their choices to the Chair according to the scoring system designated by the chair (current scoring system is rank ordering of all candidates for each award with 1 being the highest merit). The primary criterion for the rank ordering is merit.

The Committee Chair tallies the votes and provides this information to committee members. In cases where there is no clear consensus, a second tally may be needed to determine the awards. A conference call is held late February or early March to make sure all committee members are in agreement with consensus votes and to allow for discussion if voting is close in order to reach a final decision. Although there may be situations when an award is given to more than one individual, the committee is encouraged to make each award to a single person. Unsuccessful nominations are not carried over to the next year, thus candidates must be re-nominated to be considered.

The Awards Chair informs the President and Executive Office of CPDD of the Committee's choices, and the Executive Committee must then approve the Award Committee's decision. The President of CPDD informs the awardees of their awards, and asks the awardees to maintain confidentiality regarding receipt of the award until the non-winners have been informed of the outcome.

Once the President has informed the chair of the Awards Committee that the winners have been contacted, the chair also contacts the winners and their nominators, and then contacts the nominators (not the nominees) of the non-winners.

The Chair of the Awards Committee notifies both the award winner and his or her nominator that both will make statements during the plenary session at the annual meeting, and that they should consult the meeting program and/or the Executive Office if they have any questions.