Felix Franks Biotechnology Medal 2020 – Information Sheet for Nominators

The Felix Franks Biotechnology Medal is an Early Career Award sponsored by the RSC Biotechnology Group. The award is in Commemoration of Cambridge University Professor, Felix Franks (1926-2016), a highly distinguished former Chairman of the Biotechnology Group, and is a result of the generosity of his family who have agreed to provide the medals. The aim of this award is to encourage and recognise excellence in early career scientists in the application of chemical sciences to the study of any aspect of biotechnology.

The 2020 Award will be made for the most meritorious contributions to Chemical Biotechnology on the basis of published papers and/or other documentary evidence, including contributions to conferences, over the preceding 5 years. We encourage proposals both from industry and academia, and accept supporting evidence from more than one person if the candidate has not been able to publish confidential work.

The award is open to all early career scientists, whether or not members of the Royal Society of Chemistry or the Biotechnology Group. The definition of ‘Early Career Scientist’ is someone who has obtained their PhD less than 10 years before 31 December 2020.

Early Career eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. An ‘Early Career Scientist’ is someone with no more than 10 years of full-time equivalent professional experience (allowing for career breaks) before 31 December 2020. Time spent as a postgraduate student (e.g. Masters or PhD) is not included. Time spent as a post-doctoral researcher is included.
2. Career breaks due to caring responsibilities or personal circumstances (e.g. a period of parental/adoption leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances) will be taken into account.

Nominations for the 2020 Felix Franks Biotechnology Medal

Nominations for the 2020 medal are open from 1 February to 30 April 2020 and may be submitted by any nominator familiar with the work of the nominee. The candidate’s agreement must first be obtained and the name of a second person willing to act as referee should be given.

A nomination form can be obtained from the Biotechnology Group website and should be returned to the Chairman of the Selection Committee, Professor Stephen Harding, University of Nottingham (Steve.Harding@nottingham.ac.uk) and to the Honorary Secretary of the RSC Biotechnology Group, Dr Colin Bedford, University College London (c.t.bedford@ucl.ac.uk) with the supporting evidence (including a short CV of the candidate).

Notification of the 2020 Winner and Presentation of the Award

Notification of the winner of the award will be made shortly after the Selection Committee Meeting in June 2020.

The recipient of the award will be invited to present a lecture on their work at a meeting sponsored by the RSC Biotechnology Group at which a Certificate and the Inscribed Medal will be presented. Some assistance will be available towards travel expenses and accommodation.