

## IACM Awards Committees

### Background

Every two years, coinciding with the WCCM the IACM confers awards to prominent scientists in computational mechanics.

IACM Awards are established to highlight the best work in our community. They are intended to recognize individual achievement and to showcase the work of our community to the outside world.

Various IACM Awards have been established each with a different purpose or demographic: for senior researchers (lifetime achievement), for mid-career researchers, early career researchers or students.

The IACM Awards and their number are listed in the annex: *IACM Medals and Awards*

### Committees:

The International Association for Computational Mechanics establishes two awards committees: the **Major Awards Committee** (MAC) and the **General Awards Committee** (GAC).

### Role:

MAC is responsible for the *IACM Congress Medal (Gauss-Newton Medal)*, the *IACM O.C. Zienkiewicz Award*, the *IACM Computational Mechanics Award*, and the *IACM Fellows Award*.

GAC is responsible for the *IACM John Argyris Award* for Young Investigator.

Each committee is responsible for maintaining the specifications of each award and for planning and oversight them. They report to the IACM Executive Council.

IACM Executive and General Council must approve, upon recommendation by MAC, changes to prize specifications, the addition of new prizes, or the termination of existing prizes. MAC is the body that prepares for the Executive and General Council any recommendations to changes to the IACM awards program.

Committee members should be willing to pro-actively solicit nominations from other members of the scientific community.

Committee members should share all information with the other committee members. It is the responsibility of each committee member to inform chair of any potential conflict of interest.

Each committee member is responsible for providing a fair and informed vote. This requires the member to read the nomination packages assigned by the chair.

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### **Membership:**

MAC is composed by:

1. the five most recent Gauss-Newton Medalists,
2. the two most recent IACM O.C. Zienkiewicz awardees, and
3. the two most recent IACM Computational Mechanics awardees.

The members of MAC plus the two most recent Young investigator awardees compose GAC.

The IACM executive Council appoints new Chair every two years among past Gauss-Newton Medalists, who acts in both committees and has a casting vote.

### **Managing Conflicts of Interest:**

All members of the Awards Committees are non-eligible for any IACM Award during their period of service.

IACM Award Committee Members should not be requested to send nominations or writing support letters.

It is difficult to draft legal rules regarding conflict of interest for prize committees. Individuals nominated for prizes are often so well known among the community that selection committee members may consider themselves colleagues. Nevertheless, a selection committee should avoid favoritism or the appearance of favoritism. And so some general guidelines on avoiding conflicts of interest are appropriate.

Selection Committee chairs and individual members need to consider the spirit of these guidelines, and members should step down if they feel their participation might create an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Conflicts of interest (or the appearance of such conflicts) would most likely arise if:

- ✓ the body of work (paper, significant piece of research, or the like) considered in the prize nomination was done by someone while a student or postdoc of the committee member;
- ✓ the person nominated was a recent former student or postdoc of the committee member; or
- ✓ the research being judged is in any way a collaborative effort between the committee member and the nominee.

Judging a nomination of a close friend may also create the appearance of a conflict of interest.

It is less clear what to do in cases where the nominee is a colleague, a co-worker in the same department, for example. In such cases, the member of the selection committee and the chair should consider the circumstances and how they will appear to community.

If the member of the prize selection committee feels there may be a conflict, he or she should consult with either the chair of the selection committee and/or the IACM President. If after these discussions there does appear to be a conflict, the member should offer to step down from the selection committee. If the possible conflict arises

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with the chair of the committee, then the IACM President should consult with the Vice-Presidents and reach a consensus decision.

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**Confidentiality:**

All the deliberations of the Awards Committees are to be considered confidential, within the limits of the law and the integrity of the IACM.

**Role of the IACM Secretary General and the IACM Secretariat**

The IACM Secretariat, under the supervision of the Secretary General, is generally responsible for administration procedures related to prizes. It will

- ✓ Promote the call for nominations.
  - ✓ Maintain a prize calendar and ensure that calls for nomination, and formation and charging of prize committees are carried out in a timely manner.
  - ✓ Send a call for nominations out to all affiliated associations and other organizations as appropriate.
  - ✓ Set the dates in consultation with the chair.
  - ✓ Collect nominations.
  - ✓ Make nomination packages available to committee.
  - ✓ Collect the decision package from the committee chair (including justification).
  - ✓ Inform the winner and arrange for the lecture, if there is a lecture associated with the prize.
  - ✓ Arrange that any medals, certificates, or plaques (as appropriate for a given prize) be created.
  - ✓ Prepare the prize brochure, press releases, and announcements for public dissemination.
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### IACM Medals and Awards

The **IACM Congress Medal (Gauss-Newton Medal)** is the highest award given by IACM. It honors individuals who have made outstanding, sustained contributions in the field of computational mechanics generally over periods representing substantial portions of their professional careers. The medal is bronze and carries the images of Newton and Gauss in recognition of the synergy between mathematics, numerical analysis, and mathematical modeling of physical events that underpin much of the broad field of computational mechanics.

*Conferred every two years. Maximum number of awards: one.*

The **IACM O.C. Zienkiewicz Award** is given in recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions to the broad field of computational mechanics. These contributions shall generally be in the form of important research results which significantly advance the understanding of theories and methods impacting computational mechanics, but special individual contributions in leadership and administration, industrial applications, and engineering analysis that advance computational mechanics shall also represent accomplishments worthy of recognition.

*Conferred every two years. Maximum number of awards: one.*

The **IACM Computational Mechanics Award** will be given for contributions to traditional areas, such as computational structural mechanics and computational fluid dynamics, but may also be given to recognize contributions outside these specific areas. For example, the Award may be given in recognition of accomplishments in software development, scientific computing, research contributions in computational electromagnetics, semi-conductor device simulation, biomechanics or other areas not traditionally embraced by computational structural mechanics and fluid dynamics but which have general applicability to computational mechanics.

*Conferred every two years. Maximum number of awards: one.*

The **IACM John Argyris Award** for young investigators recognizes outstanding accomplishments, particularly outstanding published papers, by researchers 40 or younger. Eligibility requires that the nominee not turn 41 in the year the award is presented.

*Conferred every two years. Maximum number of awards: one.*

The **IACM Fellows Award** recognizes individuals with a distinguished record of research, accomplishment and publication in areas of computational mechanics and demonstrated support of the IACM through membership and participation in the Association, its meetings and activities.

*Conferred every two years. Maximum number of fellow awards: before each WCCM the Executive Council will establish the exact number based on the report of the Secretary General on the number of members of the affiliated societies. In any case, eight is always a maximum and this number can only decrease.*

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