

ICRS Awards Guidelines

1. Descriptions

Mechoulam Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field

The Mechoulam Award is given to a distinguished, established scientist who has made sustained and significant contributions to cannabinoid and endocannabinoid research that have substantially moved the discipline forward. In addition, the recipient should have a long-standing affiliation to the society and demonstrate a history of mentorship to others in the field. The recipient is invited to deliver a lecture describing their work at the annual ICRS Symposium on the Cannabinoids during the year following receipt of the award.

ICRS William A. Devane Early Career Award

The Early Career Award is given to a researcher, typically within 10 years of receiving their terminal degree, who has demonstrated a dedication to cannabinoid and endocannabinoid research and has established a cohesive research program of excellence in the field. Career interruptions and other life events may be considered in this timeline. The recipient should have a strong publication record, contributions to the society, and the potential to become a leader in the field of cannabinoid or endocannabinoid research. Examples of posts that might typically be held by recipients include, but are not limited to, assistant professor, lecturer/junior lecturer, early career investigator research grant awardees, and equivalent early career positions in non-academic settings. Those already promoted to tenured associate professor or equivalent will generally be ineligible unless such promotion has happened within 10 years of receipt of terminal degree. The recipient is expected to deliver a lecture describing their work at the annual ICRS Symposium on the Cannabinoids during the year following receipt of the award.

ICRS Mid-Career Award

The Mid-Career Award is given to an established researcher, typically at least 10 years but less than 30 years of receiving their terminal degree who has demonstrated a dedication to cannabinoid and endocannabinoid research and has developed a cohesive research program of excellence in the field. The recipient should have a strong publication record, contributions to the society, and the potential to become a leader in the field of cannabinoid or endocannabinoid research. The recipient is expected to deliver a lecture describing their work at the annual ICRS Symposium on the Cannabinoids during the year following receipt of the award.

ICRS Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a senior individual who has dedicated his or her career to furthering cannabinoid and/or endocannabinoid research with a broad impact on more than one aspect of the field. A record of enduring, high-impact publications, as well as substantive service to the field and the International Cannabinoid Research Society exemplify such dedication. The recipient may currently be retired, and the contributions may have occurred in the past. Awardees will be granted lifetime ICRS membership.

2. Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted only by ICRS members, via either the ICRS website or via email to the ICRS Secretary. Successful nominees can be from any discipline, but must have a proven record of significant, relevant research.

With the exception of nominees for the Lifetime Achievement Award, nominees must be ICRS members in good standing and are expected to have a sustained affiliation with the Society. The ICRS strongly encourages nomination of scientists from underrepresented groups, as well as scientists who prioritize equity, diversity, and inclusion in their research, mentorship and other aspects of their work.

The ICRS Committee on Awards may recommend which award a nominee should be most appropriately considered for and will seek the nominee's approval if they are to be considered for a different award than the one for which they were originally nominated.

All awards are typically given annually but may not be given every year. All nominations are held by the ICRS and will be considered for the award for each of the five years following the original submission, within the limits of eligibility for the award. Subsequently submitted nomination letters, with updated supporting materials, will be considered for each of the five years following the latter submission.

3. Review Process

All nominations will be judged by the Committee on Awards, which is comprised of five regular members of the ICRS, as appointed by the Executive Director, and typically chaired by the Past President. Each member serves a term of up to three years, after which they rotate off the committee or may apply to serve again.

The Mechoulam Award, is judged by committee consisting exclusively of former Mechoulam Awardees. The Chair of the Committee on Awards will serve as a non-voting member of the committee.

Nominations must include:

(1) a cover letter that speaks to the nominee's (a) research accomplishments and background, including relevant experiences with the ICRS, (b) qualifications for the specific award for which they are being nominated, and (c) current contact information (i.e., email address and phone number). Cover letter is limited to three pages.

(2) a current CV of the nominee.

4. Notification of Awards

Award recipients will typically be notified at least two months prior to the symposium and announced publicly at the ICRS Banquet.

5. Timeline (Subject to change by the Secretary)

Feb 1: Nominations are due to the Secretary and Executive Director.

Feb 15: The Secretary will send the nominations to the Chair of the ICRS Committee on Awards.

Mar 1: The Chair of the ICRS Committee on Awards will confirm nominees' award eligibility and communicate the nominations for each award to each committee.

Mar 15: Committees will vote. Chair of Mechoulam Award Committee will communicate Results of Mechoulam Award to the Chair of the Committee on Awards within 48 hours of voting.

Apr 1: The Chair of the ICRS Committee on Awards will send the voting results to the Secretary for ratification (i.e., confirming awardee eligibility).

Apr 15: The Secretary will communicate results to (1) the Executive Director and (2) the Managing Director.

May 1: The Secretary will inform the award recipients and confirm whether they are willing to accept the award. The Managing Director will initiate orders for the award plaques, thus allowing at least two months for the plaques to be fabricated prior to the annual ICRS Symposium on the Cannabinoids.