

# International Commission on Stratigraphy

## ICS Stratigraphy Prizes

The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) is a leading player in the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) with responsibility for establishing international standards in stratigraphy, such as the Geological Time Scale and the International Chronostratigraphical Scale, defined by boundary stratotypes (GSSPs).

Stratigraphy is the core discipline of the geological sciences, concerned with the relationships in time and space of rocks (not just sedimentary, but also igneous and metamorphic rocks) and the varied processes that have formed and affected them. Results and interpretations deriving from other disciplines can only be integrated into a coherent all-embracing geological history if they are based on sound stratigraphy.

To emphasise this key role of stratigraphy, the International Commission on Stratigraphy awards two ICS Prizes to outstanding geoscientists every four years during an International Geological Congress. The first awards were made at the 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC in Florence, 2004, the second at the 33<sup>rd</sup> IGC in Oslo, 2008 and the third will be made at the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC in Brisbane 2012.

The awards are made at two levels:

1. The **Digby McLaren Medal** is awarded to honour a significant body of internationally important contributions to stratigraphy sustained over a number of years. The contributions can be in research (through publication of papers, monographs or books) or in education (through development of influential educational material or resources). It is expected that a major proportion of this work will have been published in an international language. The medal is named in honour of the Canadian geologist Digby McLaren who was so influential in developing the key "golden spike" concept of a Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) with reference to the Silurian - Devonian boundary, and a major force behind the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) of UNESCO.
2. The **ICS Medal** is awarded to honour high-quality research in stratigraphy by recognizing a single major achievement in advancing stratigraphical knowledge. The research can be either in the development of new methods of analysis or in the presentation of new data and/or interpretation of the geological history of a particular area or time interval. There are no limitations to the size or scale of the subject matter. The geographical scope of the work need not be international, but the work should be of an international scientific calibre. The language of publication of the work is not a criterion, and it may comprise a single paper of distinction or a series of papers over a short period of time that has similar impact.

## **Nominations and Selection**

Nominations for either of the Awards are solicited from any source, not just members of the Commission or other entities within IUGS. Nominations should include a brief biographical background of the Nominee, a short reasoned case based on the Nominee's contributions, and, if necessary, translation into English of at least abstracts of this material so that independent judgement can be made.

The ICS has established a committee to elicit and evaluate nominations for the two Prizes, and afterwards to make recommendations to all members of ICS, who must then approve the nominations by a clear majority vote. The committee includes the chair, David Harper (Chair of the International Subcommittee on the Ordovician System, Durham University) and the secretary, Paul Bown (Secretary of the ICS, University College London).

Nomination documents should be submitted by e mail to:

Prof. Paul Bown  
Secretary of ICS Stratigraphy Prizes Committee

Email: [p.bown@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.bown@ucl.ac.uk)

by March 30, 2012