

## Guidance notes for RSS Honours

2021

### Nominations and award procedure

- Nominations for awards should be made on the standard form, accompanied, if appropriate, by the CV and/or list of publications of the candidate, or links to further information.
- Honours Committee will not consider additional letters of recommendation or support and so these should not be solicited or sent.
- During each award round, Honours Committee will consider nominations on the basis of the information provided and its own research. It does not have the authority to introduce additional candidates and therefore it is important that individual fellows, and sections, special interest groups and local groups, take seriously the need to make appropriate nominations, and also that nominations are actively sought from appropriate outside bodies and individuals.
- After making recommendations for awards, Honours Committee has the authority to decide whether to carry forward any unsuccessful nominations to the succeeding year. If it does so, the original nominators will be contacted and asked if they wish to update the nomination.
- Honours Committee will also review these published guidelines in the light of experience and make any recommendations for amendment to Council.
- The formal task of Honours Committee is to make recommendations to Council, which then takes the decision to make the awards.

### Frequency of awards

- In any given year, no individual may be awarded more than one of the Society's medals, and no medal may be awarded to more than one individual.
- Awards of the Guy Medal in Silver and the Guy Medal in Bronze are made each year if suitable candidates are nominated.
- The Guy Medal in Gold is awarded biennially. If in any biennial year a suitable candidate is not nominated, then an award may be made the following year.
- The Barnett Award is awarded annually.
- The Royal Statistical Society Research Prize is awarded annually.
- The Bradford Hill, Howard, Wood and West Medals are usually awarded triennially. If in any year a suitable candidate is not nominated, then an award may be made the following year.
- The Chambers and Greenfield Industrial Medals are awarded triennially. Nominations are not sought in the two years after an award has been made, but subsequently are solicited every year until a candidate of suitable merit is nominated.
- For Honorary Fellowships, see the detailed notes below.

### Grouping of awards

- The Guy Medal in Silver, the Bradford Hill Medal, and the Howard Medal are intended for achievements of cognate standard subject to the different descriptions and requirements

of the awards. The Honours Committee has the freedom to consider nominees for one of these medals for either of the other two if they satisfy the necessary specific criteria.

- Similarly, candidates nominated for the Guy Medal in Bronze and the Wood Medal may be considered for the other medal, again provided they satisfy the necessary specific criteria.

### **Criteria in terms of career stage and fellowship status**

- The Guy Medal in Bronze and the Frances Wood Medal have limits in terms of the number of years since the award of a first degree. These limits apply to the year in which the RSS award is actually made, not to the year of nomination, and to the year in which the first degree course was completed, not to the date of formal graduation. If a candidate's first degree is at Master's level, the time limits are reduced by one year.
- The Royal Statistical Society Research Prize has a limit in terms of the number of years since the award of a PhD. This limit apply to the year in which the RSS award is actually made, not to the year of nomination, and to the year in which the PhD was completed, not to the date of formal graduation.
- Certain awards are made only to fellows of the Society. For these awards, fellowship (which may include Honorary Fellowship) is required at the time of nomination.

### **Particular awards: further notes**

#### **Guy Medal in Gold**

- The Medal is an award for "lifetime achievement", but in terms of quality rather than quantity, and it should be possible in most cases to recognise this on the basis of three or four career decades.

#### **Guy Medal in Silver**

- The Guy Medal in Silver is awarded to a fellow of the Society in respect of a paper or papers of special merit communicated to the Society at its discussion meetings (formerly known as ordinary meetings). Other contributions to statistics may also be taken into account.
- Because the award is made to an individual, in the case of joint authorship of a paper the Honours Committee would need to be satisfied that a candidate has sufficient merit in their own right for the award, for example on the basis of other published research work or of clear contribution to the paper in question. (It is therefore acceptable for the case to include a jointly-authored paper cited in a previous award to another author.)

#### **Guy Medal in Bronze**

- The Guy Medal in Bronze is awarded to a fellow of the Society in respect of excellent work presented to any conference or meeting run by the Society, or published in any of the Society's journals.
- Eligible candidates must be within fifteen years of the award of their first degree. Additional allowance may be made for known career breaks. If the first degree is at Master's level, the time limit is reduced by one year. Other contributions to statistics may be considered.

- If a candidate's work published in the Society's journals (or presented at a Society conference or meeting) is jointly authored, the Honours Committee would, similarly, need to be satisfied that a candidate has sufficient merit in their own right for the award.

### **Bradford Hill Medal**

Nominees are expected to have contributed in at least two of the areas of development, application and exposition of medical statistics.

1. **Development and methodology:** There is no requirement that nominees shall have published their contributions in the journals of the Society, and excellent contributions may well have been published almost exclusively in journals such as *Biometrika*, *Biometrics* and *Statistics in Medicine*.
2. **Application:** Many medical statisticians work as part of an inter-disciplinary team. Increasingly such work leads to publications in medical journals with the statistician as senior author. Many of these papers have profound public-health implications (for example, cancer and nuclear installations, oral contraceptive use and breast cancer, cardiovascular risk factors, AIDS, organ transplantation). Consequently these include some of the applications where Fellows of the Society have their greatest influence on society.
3. **Exposition:** Exposition of good statistical practice, together with clear and comprehensible criticism of bad practice, is an important role for the medical statistician. This can be discharged in a number of ways, including expository articles in medical journals and refereeing and editing of the medical, as well as statistical, literature. In a community where originality is often the most admired quality it is all too easy to undervalue exposition. However, not only can a comprehensible and appropriate article be very influential and do much more to ensure good statistical practice than many more technical contributions, it would also be wrong to underestimate the intellectual challenge posed by exposition.

*Further notes:* As there is no link with the Society through publication in its journals, the link is created by restricting the award to fellow of the Society. The term 'medical statistics' defines the intended field of application but should be interpreted flexibly. The medal should be awarded to an individual whose experience and expertise is similar to that required of Guy Silver Medallists. In the award of the medal, weight will be given particularly to work completed in the last ten years.

### **Howard Medal**

Nominees are expected to have contributed in at least two of the areas of development, application and exposition of social statistics.

1. **Development and methodology:** There is no requirement that nominees shall have published their contributions in the journals of the Society, and excellent contributions may well have been published in a range of statistical and substantive social science journals
2. **Application:** Many social statisticians work as part of an inter-disciplinary team, and their work often appears in public reports and subject-matter journals. Many of these papers have

profound social science implications (for example, in public policy, economics, survey methodology). Consequently these include some of the applications where Fellows of the Society have their greatest influence on the world at large.

3. Exposition: Exposition of good statistical practice, together with clear and comprehensible criticism of bad practice, is an important role for the social statistician. This can be discharged in a number of ways, including expository articles and refereeing and editing in the social scientific, as well as statistical, literature. In a community where originality is often the most admired quality it is all too easy to undervalue exposition. However, not only can a comprehensible and appropriate article be very influential and do much more to ensure good statistical practice than many more technical contributions, it would also be wrong to underestimate the intellectual challenge posed by exposition.

*Further notes:* As there is no link with the Society through publication in its journals, the link is created by restricting the award to fellow of the Society. The term 'social statistics' defines the intended field of application but should be interpreted flexibly. The medal should be awarded to an individual whose experience and expertise is similar to that required of Guy Silver Medallists. In the award of the medal, weight will be given particularly to work completed in the last ten years.

### **Greenfield Industrial Medal**

- The Greenfield Industrial Medal was founded in 1991 to recognise contributions of statistical science to all aspects of manufacturing industry, including design, engineering, production, purchasing and customer service. It is specifically aimed at encouraging the application of statistical methods to industrial processes, and is awarded for contributions to the effective application of statistical methods to the manufacturing and allied industries. The emphasis in making the award will be on effective application.
- Overall, the objective of the award is to encourage manufacturing companies to pay full attention to the great benefits of statistical methods. Examples of areas where the application of statistical methods can make substantial contributions to the management of manufacturing companies are total quality management, manpower and resource management, production control, purchasing and stock control, and sales forecasting, among many others.
- Fellows, non-fellows or organisations may submit nominations. Submissions for the award may be supported by published papers and/or industrial reports for which publication in whole or in part is not restricted.

### **Barnett Award**

- The award is for outstanding contributions to the field of environmental statistics (covering methodological development, or application or exposition).
- Environmental sciences here is considered to include the physical environmental sciences, plant and animal ecology and the environmental health sciences.

### **Frances Wood Medal**

- The Frances Wood Medal, established in memory of the statistician Frances Wood OBE (1883–1919), is awarded in respect of excellent contributions to economic or social

statistics. Eligible candidates must be within fifteen years of the award of their first degree. Additional allowance may be made for known career breaks. If the first degree is at Master's level, the time limit is reduced by one year.

### **Research Prize**

- The Royal Statistical Society Research Prize is awarded to a fellow of the Society near the beginning of their research career for an outstanding published contribution to statistical theory or application. The winner is awarded £2,000 by the Society. Eligible candidates must be within four years of the award of their PhD. Additional allowance may be made for known career breaks.

### **Chambers Medal**

- The Chambers Medal, named after Sir Paul Chambers, a former president of the Society and chairman of ICI, is awarded to a fellow of the Society who has not held or been elected to the office of President, for outstanding services to the Society.

### **West Medal**

- The West Medal, established in memory of the Chartered Statistician John Howard West (d. 1998), is awarded for outstanding contributions to the development or communication of official statistics.

### **Honorary Fellowship**

- Candidates will be assessed against absolute criteria, rather than relative to one another; therefore Honorary Fellowships will not necessarily be awarded every year, nor is there a limit of only one Honorary Fellowship to be awarded.
- Nominations for Honorary Fellowship must be accompanied by a written statement of the grounds on which the proposal is made. Council will consider recommendations individually from Honours Committee; for a nominee to be elected as an Honorary Fellow, at least three quarters of the members of Council voting must be in favour of the nomination.
- Honorary Fellowship should be regarded as the equivalent of a Guy Medal in Gold for non-statisticians—therefore, a great honour infrequently bestowed.
- Candidates may be of any nationality.