

CASCA Awards Committee Report June 2019

Members

The current members of the Awards committee are:

Renée Hlozek (2016-2019) University of Toronto (Chair)
Greg Sivakoff (2016-2019) University of Alberta
Catherine Lovekin (2016-2019) Mount Allison University
Christian Marois (2016-2019) National Research Council
Viktor Khalack (2017-2020) University of Moncton
Ivana Damjanov (2018-2021) Saint Mary's Univeristy
Adrian Liu (2018-2021) McGill University

The CASCA awards committee successfully awarded prizes in 2019 (details below). Four members on the current panel need to be replaced for the following year, including the CASCA awards chair. This process will begin in the fall, to ensure continuity over the submission and solicitation of awards for 2020.

Awards

The committee recommended to the board recipients of awards fro the following CASCA prizes:

Harvey B. Richer Gold Medal: **Nicholas Cowan**
Peter G. Martin Award: **Bryan Gaensler**
Petrie Prize: **Gabriela Gonzales**
Qilak Award: **Jan Cami**
JS Plaskett Medal for an outstanding student thesis: **Alex Tetarenko**

Richer medal and Martin Award adjustment

The CASCA awards committee wishes to raise the motion that an allowance is created for an additional opportunity to apply for both the Richer medal and the Martin award given a leave motivation[^]. While leave (parental, medical, see specifications below) can affect all award recipients, parental leave often occurs in the first decade of an early career researcher, so most likely to affect potential recipients of the Richer medal. However, in order to remain equitable between both the early and mid-career CASCA members, the eligibility of both the Martin and the Richer awards has been modified to include this extension possibility.

We suggest that the leave would be specified by the nominator (at the agreement of the nominee). As the CASCA awards committee, we would like to allow the option of nominating someone for the Richer medal and Martin awards given leave considerations.

Suggested leaves are:

- Maternity and Parental leave
- Family care leave
- Medical and illness leave
- Long Term Disability leave
- Military leave
- Political leave

^This follows similar approaches for international fellowships like the Sloan Fellowship (see e.g. <https://sloan.org/fellowships/faq>) and NSERC Steacie award (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Prizes-Prix/Steacie-Steacie/Nomination-Nomination_eng.asp)

Award communication and eligibility issues

There were several issues this year with nominating members (or nominees themselves) not being fully paid CASCA members at the time of nominations. In some cases this led to disqualification of the nominees from the process. The CASCA Awards committee would like to work with the Board to increase awareness of the nomination procedure and the requirements on all nominators and nominees for eligibility, to avoid a repeat of the 2019 experience. This would be to:

- Make all policies clear on every award page
- Make sure that the eligibility requirements (and nomination procedures) are standardized across awards where possible
- Make sure that these requirements and procedures are also outlined in the email
- Make sure that the eligibility requirements are met before review has begun (there was a timing issue in 2018, given the due date was close to the end of the year)
- Make sure that nominees know that they can only be eligible for one award in a given year (i.e. they may not be nominated for both the Richer medal and the Martin award in the same year)