

# CASCA Awards Committee Report December 2020

## Members and Recruitment

The returning members of the Awards committee this year are:

- Adrian Liu (2018-2021), McGill University (Chair)
- Ivana Damjanov (2018-2021), Saint Mary's University
- Ruobing Dong (2019-2022), University of Victoria
- Rodrigo Fernandez (2019-2022), University of Alberta
- Laura Fissel (2019-2022), Queen's University
- Samantha Lawler (2019-2022), University of Regina

In order to replace Viktor Khalack, we successfully recruited:

- Jayanne English (2020-2023), University of Manitoba

## Awards

Given the natural annual rhythm of the Awards Committee, at this point in the year the work has barely started. Nominations for the following prizes have been solicited:

- J. S. Plaskett Medal
- Qilak Award for Astronomy Communications, Public Education and Outreach
- Martin Award for mid-career achievement
- Richer Medal for early-career research
- Petrie Lecture invitation for an outstanding astrophysicist

## Awards Committee Reforms

In last year's April committee report, I noted that the pool of nominated prize candidates has been insufficiently representative of our community as a whole. Several ideas to encourage broader participation have been discussed. After consultation with the committee, the chair of the E&I committee, the CASCA Vice-President, and the Nominating committee, we decided on the following changes:

- We now permit all nomination packages to be accompanied by an optional letter explaining any extenuating circumstances.
- To encourage first-time nominators, we have posted a guide for effective nomination letter writing.
- For transparency reasons, the timeline and procedures followed by the Awards Committee are now publicly available on the CASCA website.
- Due to extra stressed on the community this year, we have extended the deadline for award nominations to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, rather than the usual December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- The Awards Committee chair will meet with the E&I Committee chair as well as the Nominating Committee to identify potentially promising nominees who might be overlooked if their nomination is not actively solicited.