
ENSA

European Neutron Scattering Association



Guide-lines for the Walter Halg Prize of the European Neutron Scattering Association

Article 1

These guide-lines define the procedure for awarding the Walter Halg Prize of the European Neutron Scattering Association (ENSA).

Article 2

The prize was made possible from 1999 until 2011 by a donation of Professor Walter Halg, the founder of neutron scattering in Switzerland, and in 2013 by continuation of support from his widow, Madeleine Halg-Degen. The future prizes will be guaranteed through the foundation „Walter-Halg-Prize“ which received the necessary capital by Madeleine Halg-Degen.

Article 3

The prize will be awarded biannually to a European scientist for outstanding, coherent work in neutron scattering with long-term impact on scientific and/or technical neutron scattering applications.

Some criteria to be considered are:

- Development of a novel technique in neutron scattering allowing innovative experiments
- Development and application of (known) neutron scattering techniques to study novel effects or phenomena
- Systematic work in neutron scattering providing a basic improvement in the understanding of materials, effects or phenomena
- Development of (novel) instrument components leading to substantial improvements in the performance of neutron scattering techniques
- Development of (novel) concepts in the understanding or interpretation of neutron scattering experiments (theoretical work, data analysis, etc.)

Article 4

Nominations for the prize may be submitted by European scientists as individuals or on behalf of a Division, Section or Group. To establish a high standard it is necessary that the proposals represent the breadth and strength of European neutron scattering. Nominations should include the motivation for the award, a brief curriculum vitae of the nominee and a short list of not more than 10 major publications. A maximum of 5 letters of support from authorities in the field which outline the importance of the work would also be helpful. Nominations for the prize will be treated in confidence and although they will be acknowledged there will be no further communication.

Article 5

The nominations for the prize will be examined by a Selection Committee which consists of authorities representing the major scientific disciplines. It includes acknowledged experts both in neutron scattering and from outside the neutron scattering community. Membership in the Selection Committee is obtained by invitation from the ENSA Committee for a period of 4 years, which can be renewed for another 4 years. The ENSA Chairman chairs the Selection Committee. He is responsible for an adequate balance of the scientific expertise in the Selection Committee.

Article 6

The Selection Committee will meet after the application deadline to examine the nominations for the prize according to the criteria defined in Article 3. The final decision about the winner of the award will be made by a simple majority of the members of the Selection Committee present at the meeting. The detailed procedure is described in the Appendix A.

Article 7

The prize will be awarded in a special ceremony session of either the European or International Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS or ICNS, respectively) which will take place alternately every two years.

Article 8

The call for nominations for the prize will be publicised primarily by both the members of the ENSA Committee within their national neutron scattering community and the European neutron scattering centres. It will also be advertised in appropriate journals and bulletins as well as on the ENSA web pages.

Article 9

Any modification of these articles shall require the approval of more than one half of all registered ENSA delegates at a formal meeting of the ENSA Committee.

Article 10

These articles came into force after approval by the ENSA delegates by correspondence on April 15, 1999.

Villigen, April 15, 1999

Prof. Dr. Albert Furrer, ENSA Chairman

Modifications of the Guidelines:

The article 6 has been modified to reflect new composition of the Selection Committee with the approval of the ENSA delegates.

October 8-9, 2012

Prof. Michael Steiner, ENSA Chairman

The articles 2-6 and 8 have been modified and a new Appendix A has been added with the approval of the ENSA delegates at the 43rd ENSA Meeting

June, 16th 2014

Prof. Michael Steiner, ENSA Chairman

Appendix A

Procedure for the Meeting of the Selection Committee of the Walter Hälgi Prize

1. The ENSA Chairman calls the members of the Selection Committee to the meeting typically within one month after the deadline for nominations.
2. The ENSA Chairman invites a member of the board of trustees of the Foundation „Walter-Hälgi-Prize“ to the meeting as an observer.
3. The meeting is chaired by the ENSA Chairman.
4. The ENSA Chairman assigns for each nomination a referee and a co-referee out of the members of the Selection Committee. The referees will give a detailed presentation of the nominations as well as a rate, and the co-referees will provide complementary information. Then, the nominations will be further discussed by the members of the Selection Committee.
5. The decision about the winner of the award results from a vote among the members of the Selection Committee present at the meeting. Absent members have no vote, since the discussion at the meeting is essential for the formation of opinion. The ENSA Chairman abstains from voting.
6. The successful nomination requires a simple majority. If there is no simple majority in the first voting round, the nomination receiving the lowest vote is eliminated for the second voting round. This procedure is repeated until a nomination receives a simple majority. The ENSA Chairman decides in case of a stalemate.
7. The ENSA Chairman informs the winner immediately after the meeting.
8. Excellent but unsuccessful nominations can be retained as candidatures for a future prize. The ENSA Chairman informs the corresponding applicants accordingly and asks them to resubmit the (updated) nominations again before the next deadline.