
Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies

Operating Procedures for the Fisher Lecture Selection Committee

Purpose and History

COPSS established the R. A. Fisher Lectureship in 1963 to honor the contributions of Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher and the work of a present-day statistician. The Fisher Lectureship recognizes the importance of statistical methods for scientific investigations, and the list of past Fisher lecturers well reflects the prestige that COPSS and its member societies place on this award. The Lecture is to be broadly based and is to emphasize aspects of statistics and probability that are closely related to scientific collection and interpretation of data, the areas in which Fisher made outstanding contributions. It is anticipated that this lecture will be published in one of the COPSS society journals. Since 1982 COPSS has added a cash prize and a certificate to the Lectureship.

Award Committee

The Award Committee selecting the recipient will consist of six members, one member appointed by each of the five COPSS member societies and one member appointed by the Chair of COPSS. The appointment terms are for three cycles of the award, normally three years. The Chair of the Award Committee will be selected by the Chair of COPSS from among the members of the current Award Committee.

Frequency of Award: The award shall be given every year if, in the opinion of the Award Committee, an eligible and worthy nominee is found. The Award Committee shall have the option of not giving an award for any year. The Award Committee may not split the award between more than one winners.

Nominations and Eligibility

The award is open to all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or citizenship. Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination. Nomination submissions will be invited by October of the previous year and will close on December 15. Prior nomination does not exclude a nominee from consideration in subsequent years. No member of the Award Committee, officer of COPSS, or societal member of COPSS shall be eligible to receive the award during his or her term of service. Eligible nominations should include a nomination letter and curriculum vitae. Up to three support letters are welcome.

Selection Criteria

The criteria is excellence in contributing statistical methods for scientific investigations broadly based on and emphasizing aspects of statistics and probability that are closely related to scientific collection and interpretation of data, the areas in which Fisher made his outstanding contributions.

The Award Committee is responsible for review of selection criteria and can recommend any modifications to COPSS.

Form and Presentation of Award

The award consists of a plaque, a citation, and a cash honorarium. It is presented at the COPSS Awards and Fisher Lecture session at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) on Wednesday 4:00 pm. The amount of the award shall be such that the principal of the fund is left intact. Reimbursement for reasonable travel and hotel expenses to attend the JSM to receive the award are provided to the recipient, if other funds are unavailable. The Fisher Lecture is generally 1 hour long with ample additional time for questions and discussion.

Important Dates

- Members of the Award Committee will be appointed by **August 31 of the previous year**. Chair of COPSS will work with COPSS members to complete all committee appointments. Chair of COPSS will select the Award Committee chair. If any COPSS member society is unable to appoint their member by October 1st of the previous year, the Award Committee will proceed and complete its work without representation of that society.
- Award recipient will be selected and notified by **January 15 of the award year**.
- Chair of the Award Committee will work with the Secretary/Treasurer of COPSS to provide all the necessary information to the ASA/JSM Awards Coordinator by **February 1st of the award year**.

Committee Chair Responsibilities

- Communicate the award criteria and selection process to Committee members.
- Contact and encourage unsuccessful nominations from the previous award period to be updated and re-nominated.
- Organize and chair Committee discussion of nominees and selection of award recipient.
- Inform the Award recipient of their selection by **February 1**.
- Inform nominator of the recipient by **February 1**.
- Inform all other nominations that a selection has been made.
- Prepare the award citation.
- Convey the award recipient's name, contact information, citation and other relevant information to the COPSS Secretary/Treasurer by **February 1** for preparing the article for publication and certificate/plaque.
- Introduce award and recipient at COPSS Awards Presentation at the JSM
- Send complete list of unsuccessful nominations to COPSS Secretary for future re-nomination.
- Communicate any recommendations for changes to any part of this document to the COPSS Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

Committee Member Responsibilities

- Work with chair to adhere to the selection time line.
- Participate fairly and openly in the in the selection deliberations.
- Request removal from committee if other time constraints do not allow for adequate attention to the nominations and award process.

COPSS Secretary/Treasurer Responsibilities

- Review and manage expenditure of the Award Endowment Fund
- Assist Committee Chair in correspondence, as needed.

- Prepare articles about the Fisher award recipient for publication in AmStat News and IMS Bulletin and provide them to ASA Meetings department ASA/JSM and IMS award coordinator by **May 31**.
- Prepare plaques, certificates, and checks for presentation at the JSM.
- Assist COPSS Chair in preparing award presentation.
- Prepare financial reports for the committee meeting at JSM.
- Coordinate with Committee Chair and ASA staff on Awards presentation.
- Prepare a report of award ceremony for IMS bulletin and a Fisher lecture report for AmStat News by **August 31**.
- Prepare a call for nominations for the following year's awards for publication in AmStat News and IMS Bulletin by **August 31**.

COPSS Chair Responsibilities

- Ensure that COPSS member societies name Award Committee members by October 1st of previous year.
- Select Award Committee Chair by August 31st of previous year.
- Mediate issues for the Committee Chair, if they arise.