



The Division of the History of Chemistry  
American Chemical Society



## Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award

### Definition of Award criteria

The Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award program recognizes breakthrough publications, books and patents worldwide in the field of chemistry. The term “breakthrough” refers to advances in the fields of science embraced by the American Chemical Society that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. The award will consist of a very high quality plaque (see information below), to be placed at a site near the office or laboratory where the breakthrough was achieved, as selected by the recipient. Each award will be made to the department or institution where the breakthrough occurred, not to the individual scientist(s) or inventors. In instances where individuals from more than one institution were authors or inventors, plaques will be presented to all those institutions.

#### *Elaboration of criteria*

- “Revolutionary” implies some sort of change in practice or theory after the appearance of the patent or publication.
- “Broad in scope” implies an advance that permeates a sub-discipline of chemistry, or that has applications in more than one sub-discipline, or that has a significant benefit to society.
- “Long-term” implies a minimum of twenty five years since the date of publication.

### Nomination process

Nominations must be made on the official nomination form, found on HIST’s website.

Each nomination consists of complete citation for either a publication, book or patent and a short (less than 200 words) justification. The justification must relate to the awards criteria. Science Citation information may be used but is not required. Each nomination should be accompanied by the name, address and e-mail address of the nominator. All

materials shall be forwarded to Committee Secretary electronically at: [hist\\_ccb@yahoo.com](mailto:hist_ccb@yahoo.com). The Committee Secretary will acknowledge receipt of all nominations. Because of the volume of nominations, the announcement of winners will be made to each recipient organization, on HIST's website, and in the appropriate media.

### **Award selection process**

Committee Secretary (non-voting) places call for nominations. Nominations will be open to all interested parties.

The number of award winners will be first based on the funds available for the purchase of the award plaques, and second, based on the number of qualified nominations, as determined by the Awards Committee. Ten is the target number per year.

Committee Secretary assembles information.

All communications between Committee Secretary and Committee members will be done by e-mail.

Committee Secretary forwards a concise nomination package to each Awards Committee member, along with a Voting Form.

The selection process is as follows. Each Committee member gives 10 points to his/her highest priority section, 9 points to the second priority selection, and ultimately 1 point to the 10<sup>th</sup> priority selection. The votes are sent to the Committee Secretary who adds them up. The nominations having the highest total votes are the award winners.

Committee Secretary informs Committee members, award winners and their nominators, and the HIST Executive Committee of the results. The award winners will be placed on the HIST website. Because of the large number of nominations, there will be no specific notification for nominations that were not selected as awardees.

Unsuccessful nominations will be automatically considered for the following three years.