

## **By-Law XXX - The Carl Douglas Prize**

- a) The Society shall award the Carl Douglas Prize in Plant Biology.
- b) The Prize shall be awarded for outstanding contributions to plant biology by a postdoctoral fellow, based on initiative and originality of the research, productivity of the individual, and leadership during their postdoctoral fellowship. A postdoctoral fellow is an individual who has completed their PhD and is engaged in full-time research under the supervision of a mentor.
- c) Applicants shall have obtained their PhD no more than 4 years (i.e., 48 months) prior to the date of the submission of the application, although career breaks will be taken into account when applicants are nearing the end of this eligibility period (e.g. maternity or parental leave, caregiver's responsibilities, illness, etc.). Applicants need not be Canadian citizens or engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination or during their postdoctoral fellowship, but must be a current member of the Society and have previously participated as a member of the Society. Applicants can apply more than once, but cannot be a previous recipient of the Prize.
- d) The Prize shall be awarded by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Carl Douglas Prize Committee.
- e) The members of the Carl Douglas Prize Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, and shall consist of three Full Members rotated in such a manner as to promote equity and diversity among Members, and that one new member is appointed annually. The longest serving member of the committee becomes the Chair for one year. Membership in the Committee is for three years.
- f) The deadline for applications for the Prize and the subsequent announcement of the recipient of the Prize shall be prior to the annual scientific conference of the Society.
- g) The Prize includes both a \$500 cash award and a reimbursement of travel expenses up to \$500 to attend and present at the annual scientific conference of the Society in the same year as the announcement of the Prize; although the value of the Prize can be subject to change based on determinations by the Board of Directors.
- h) For consideration for the Prize, applicants should submit: i) a current curriculum vitae; ii) a maximum 2-page personal statement describing their most outstanding contributions to research and productivity during their postdoctoral fellowship, including ongoing research, and evidence of initiative and originality of their research and their leadership in research and/or in the greater plant biology community; and iii) one letter of support, ideally from the applicant's postdoctoral advisor, past or present. Applications must be submitted to the Chair of the Carl Douglas Prize Committee prior to the posted deadline.
- i) All application documents shall remain confidential to the Committee and shall be destroyed after each competition.

## **Duties of Award Committee - The Carl Douglas Prize**

The duties of the Committee are spelled out in Society By-Law XXX.

A call for applications from the membership should be made in the Fall BULLETIN. The Chair of the Committee should do this by sending a short text to the Communication Director for inclusions in the BULLETIN. This should be done every year.

A second call for applications should be sent by e-mail in mid-December. The deadline to receive applications is ~180 days (i.e., mid-January) before the Annual Business Meeting, and prior to 150 days before the Annual Business Meeting.

When assessing applicants, the Committee should consider primarily the excellence of the research contributions and leadership. In addition, evidence of initiative and originality of the research, a progression of achievements from the PhD, and time spent during the postdoctoral fellowship should be considered by the Committee.

If the Award Committee agrees to a recommendation, send the following to the President and Secretary 150 days (i.e., mid-February) before the Annual Business Meeting:

A letter signed by the Chair of the Committee (including the name of all members of the Committee) that explains in some detail the rationale for the recommendation;

A separate citation that will be posted on the Society website and in the Spring BULLETIN (see examples on the Society website); and

The application materials from the applicant, i.e., curriculum vitae, 2-page personal statement, and letter of support.

If the Executive accepts the nomination then the complete file on the applicant (except the citation) must be destroyed. The Chair of the Committee should be informed of the Executive's decision by the Secretary.

The Treasurer will be notified that the Committee intends to make the award so that cash can be set aside and a cheque prepared.

During or immediately after the Annual Meeting the Chair should send a copy of the citation to the Communication Director for inclusion in the spring BULLETIN.