



# SEB AWARD: PLENARY LECTURES

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### OVERVIEW

Each year at the SEB Annual Conference, the work of George Parker Bidder III and Harold Woolhouse are honoured with plenary lectures alongside the Cell Biology plenary lecture. Lecturers are given by prominent scientists of outstanding merit who have demonstrated excellence in their fields of research.

You do not need to be an SEB member to nominate someone for the award and can put forward as many nominations as you like; however, we do not accept any self-nominations.

Nominees do not have to be a member of SEB; however, they must be available to give a talk at the SEB annual conference. To help support all winners of SEB awards in accepting their prizes, we provide the following support:

- We provide affordable childcare at our annual conference from as little as £10 per half-day
- Although in-person talks are preferable, we do have hybrid options available for anyone who will struggle to travel to the conference
- We have an SEB hardship fund available which can provide support on membership renewal costs in time of financial hardship

Date	Action
July	Nominations open
Last Friday of September	Nominations close
Late November/ early December	Plenary lecture's informed of the awards and approached to give a lecture at the annual conference the following summer.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Nominees must meet certain requirements to be considered for judging. These are:



- Must have made a substantial influence within their research field over a sustained period
- Nominees must agree to the SEB code of conduct and have no confirmed or potential impediment to their professional standing
- Nominees must be within the scientific remit of the SEB (animal plant cell)
- Nominations will only be considered that conform to the application guidelines and applications will be judged solely on the nomination form

### JUDGING CRITERIA

Prominent scientists of outstanding merit who have demonstrated excellence in their field are selected to give the Plenary Lectures. Our definition of excellence includes all areas of a diverse and modern scientific landscape.

Judging is based on the following criteria:

- Scientific Excellence
- Scientific Impact
- Leadership and inspiring the next generation
- Contributions to the SEB or/and the field of experimental biology
- Outreach and advocacy for experimental biology
- Personal Character/Professional Standing

If a situation arises where multiple nominees are judged by these criteria to have equal merit, the judging panel may also use information provided on the application form to consider the nominees' broader contribution to the experimental biology community.

Examples of relevant contributions could include, but are not limited to:

- Quality of publications and/or patents and/or software
- Independence
- Collaborations and teamwork
- Teaching/demonstrating
- Service on boards, committees or panels
- Peer-reviewer
- Other indicators of esteem indicated by the nominator/referee

### WHO ARE THE JUDGING PANELS?

The judging panel is made up of the relevant scientific section committee depending on the application. The SEB has three scientific sections; Animal, Plant and Cell which are assembled of the Section Chair, Convenors of the sections interest groups, and a co-opted member.

### CONSIDERATIONS OF THE JUDGING PANEL

To help nominators submit an application with the best chance of success, we have outlined the primary judging criteria and examples of what the judges may consider as demonstrations these have been met in the table below. Nominees may not meet every consideration of the judges; these examples should be used as a guide, and you do not need to answer every question outlined. Equally, the list is not extensive so please include anything you feel is important for the judges to consider even if it is not included in these examples.

Criteria	Examples of questions the judges may ask or aspects for consideration
Scientific excellent	Does their research solve an outstanding problem in the field?  Is their research innovative and generate new ideas?



	<p>Did they develop a novel experimental method that will further aid the scientific community?</p> <p>Have they made an original and outstanding scientific contribution?</p> <p>Is there evidence of this for example from published papers, typescripts of papers accepted for publication, or pre-prints</p>
Scientific impact	<p>Has their work lead to new research areas?</p> <p>What impact has their research made/ or is expected to make in their field?</p> <p>Is there evidence of this for example from impact factors or</p> <p>Has their work lead to an advancement outside of their research scope or topic?</p> <p>Has their work been used outside of their daily research, for example contributions to textbooks etc?</p> <p><i>*"Scientific Impact" refers to the eventual impact of fundamental research as well as direct impact of applied work</i></p>
Leadership and Inspiring the next generation	<p>Do they have a record of active leadership in mentoring experimental biology careers?</p> <p>Do they motivate and encourage students and/or colleagues?</p> <p>Do they have a track record of attracting new students/scientists to the field of experimental biology?</p> <p>Have they shown exceptional skill in inspiring the next generation in their teaching or leadership role?</p>
Outreach and advocacy for experimental biology	<p>Have they made an impact in their wider community?</p> <p>Do they promote their work or experimental biology in scientific outreach efforts to the public, youth, or disengaged groups of society?</p> <p>Do they contribute to greater scientific understanding of the general population through engagement with media?</p> <p>Is there evidence of this in outreach work, press releases, media appearances, etc?</p> <p>Are they active in scientific policy or advisory groups?</p> <p>Do they have a history of improving diversity and inclusion in their field?</p>
Contributions to the SEB or the field of experimental biology	<p>Are they a member of the SEB or similar organisation?</p> <p>What is the length of their membership and engagement with the SEB?</p> <p>Have they made a significant contribution to the SEB or the experimental biology community either over a long period of sustained engagement, or an intensive short period of action?</p> <p>Have they presented at previous SEB events such as the Annual Conference similar?</p> <p>Have they contributed content for the SEB website or magazine or other biological publications?</p> <p>Have they actively promoted the SEB or experimental biology and it's community in anyway i.e. social media, posters in department ?</p>



	Have they organised or chaired events for the experimental biology community i.e a symposium or session at an SEB event?
Personal Character/professional Standing	<p>Do they comply with the SEB professional code of conduct?</p> <p>Are they an upstanding member of the scientific community and a good role model to colleagues?</p> <p><i>*Ask nominators and nominees to declare that to the best of their knowledge there is no confirmed or potential impediment to their nominee winning from the point of view of that individual's professional standing</i></p>

## JUDGING PROCESS

1. A nominator fills out a form about the nominee containing 6 questions that are guided by the judging criteria. They are also asked to upload a CV, or link to online CV or biography of the nominee. We encourage nominators to work with their nominee in gathering the relevant information to ensure the best chance of success.\*
2. The judging panel will receive all completed forms and judge them based on a scoring system against the afore mentioned criteria
3. The top finalists (up to three) including the winner are ratified at a meeting with of the SEB Section Chairs, President and Vice President. If no final decision could be made by the judging panel, this group will have the power to decide the final winner between the top 2 candidates at this stage.
4. The winner is informed and invited to speak at the SEB Annual Conference

*\*Please note that the information provided in the nomination form will be the **only** consideration in the judging process. Please make sure to complete due diligence in assessing the suitability of the candidate. For the best chance of success, you may also wish to work with your nominee to fill out information such as supplying an up-to-date CV.*

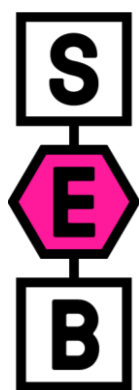
## EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The SEB has a continued commitment to ensure equality, inclusion, and diversity in all our activities. This includes recognising and rewarding scientists of outstanding merit from all backgrounds. To achieve this we have:

- Made the nomination process easier to encourage more first-time nominators and expand the pool of nominees at the judging stage
- Made the judging process and criteria more transparent to allow nominators and nominees to submit applications that have the best chance of success
- Continued to encourage and normalise non-traditional career paths by allowing flexibility in the eligibility criteria regarding “demonstrating excellence” and committed to highlight role models from diverse backgrounds and career routes.
- Actively encouraged nominators to consider diversity this on the nomination form and in any promotional material surrounding the awards
- Committed to proactively engage with other organisations, institutes, and societies in an effort to increase nominations from underrepresented groups

## TIMEFRAME

Deadline	<p>Action: Plenary Lectures</p> <p>These awards are given to prominent scientists of outstanding merit who have demonstrated excellence in their fields of research.</p>
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July	<p>Nominations open</p> <p>Section chair and convenors to engage with attendees and membership at the Annual Conference to encourage submissions for nominations</p>
August	<p>Section chair and members of the section convenors are to approach their interest groups for nominations.</p> <p>An email, on behalf of the Section Chair, will also be sent out to all members of the relevant section. The whole membership has the opportunity to a prominent scientist</p>
Last Friday of September	<p>All nominations must be received by this date via the plenary lecture nomination form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please confirm that the nominee does not have any confirmed or potential impediment to their professional standing</li> <li>• Do you and the nominee adhere to the SEB code of conduct?</li> <li>• Please explain how the nominees work demonstrates scientific excellence</li> <li>• What impact has the nominee's research made or is expected to make in their field?</li> <li>• Please explain how the nominee demonstrates leadership and inspires the next generation.</li> <li>• Please describe their contributions to outreach and advocacy for experimental biology</li> <li>• Please describe their contributions to outreach and advocacy for experimental biology</li> <li>• (Please upload a recent copy of the nominees CV (Or) Please provide a link to the nominee's online CV or biography</li> </ul>
End of September/early October	Nominations are sent to the relevant sections/committees for judging
12 October	Section committee members are asked to rank all nominees based on their application forms and using the judging criteria table and to send to Section chair (in confidence) by <b>12 October</b> . Three finalists are selected from compiled rankings.
November section meetings (2 <sup>nd</sup> or third week of November usually)	Plenary lectures are decided, if there is a tie and no agreement can be reached, the SEB president, vice presidents and section chairs can decide between the top candidates
Late November /Early December	Plenary lecture's informed of the awards and approached to give a lecture at the annual conference the following summer.

## NOMINATION FORM

Each year at the SEB Annual Conference, the work of George Parker Bidder III and Harold Woolhouse are honoured with plenary lectures alongside the Cell Biology plenary lecture. Lecturers are given by prominent scientists of outstanding merit who have demonstrated excellence in their fields of research. Please fill out this short form to nominate a candidate for this award.

The information provided in this form will be the only consideration in the judging process. Please make sure to complete due diligence in assessing the suitability of the candidate. For the best chance



of success, you may also wish to work with your nominee to fill out information such as supplying an up-to-date CV.

You should also carefully read the information below. This outlines the primary judging criteria and examples of what the judges may consider as demonstrations these have been met in the table below. Nominees may not meet every consideration of the judges; these examples should be used as a guide and you do not need to answer every question outlined. Equally, the list is not extensive so please include anything you feel is important for the judges to consider even if it is not included in these examples.

***(Tabbed content containing the same information as on the awards information webpage)***

For more information please visit ***<link to awards page on website>***.

- Your name
- Your email address

***(this is auto filled when logged into the new website)***

- Please confirm that the nominee does not have any confirmed or potential impediment to their professional standing  
*Hint: We expect all parties engaging with the activities of the SEB to treat colleagues fairly and with respect in line with the SEB code of conduct.*  
(Checkbox - mandatory)
- Do you and the nominee adhere to the [SEB code of conduct](#)?  
(Checkbox - mandatory)
- Please explain how the nominees work demonstrates scientific excellence  
*Hint: How is their research innovative, original and contribute to the field or/and wider scientific community?*  
(Text box with 500-word limit - mandatory)
- What impact has the nominee's research made or is expected to make in their field?  
(Text box with 500-word limit - mandatory)
- Please explain how the nominee demonstrates leadership and inspires the next generation.  
(Text box with 500-word limit - mandatory)
- Please describe their contributions to outreach and advocacy for experimental biology  
(Text box with 500-word limit - mandatory)
- Please describe their connection and contributions to the SEB or the field of experimental biology.  
(Text box with 500-word limit - mandatory)
- Please upload a recent copy of the nominees CV
- (Or) Please provide a link to the nominee's online CV or biography

Thank you for completing this form. The judges will now consider your nomination and the plenary lectures will be announced soon.