

Early Career Award for Excellence in Mycorrhiza Research Publication

Terms of Reference

1. This award is for research published while the author is still an Early Career Researcher, or based on work done while a Post-Doctoral Researcher. The paper must have been published no longer than 6 years following completion of a PhD program. The nomination can be submitted by the Early Career Researcher or another person.
2. Nominees do not have to be members of the International Mycorrhiza Society to be eligible for this award.
3. Nominees may submit only one publication for this award.
4. Reviews and meta-analyses will be considered but papers with original data will be preferred. The paper must have been published during the two years preceding the year of the ICOM meeting. For example, papers published in 2024 and 2025 would be considered in the 2026 competition. Papers accepted for publication but not available as a reprint for the current deadline will also be considered eligible.
5. Joint papers must be accompanied by a statement on university letterhead, signed by all the authors, estimating the contribution of each author (using % of contribution and description of contribution) for:
 - a. the ideas that lead to the initiation of the project;
 - b. the actual research skill demonstrated;
 - c. the writing of the manuscript.
6. Applications should include the following:
 - a. a pdf of the published paper (or a pdf of the accepted manuscript plus a letter from the editor of the journal stating that this paper is in press with publication date);
 - b. a nomination letter describing the significance of the paper and why it is meritorious. The letter must also include the nominee's current address and e-mail information;
 - c. a statement indicating the University and date of completion of the PhD program;
 - d. a statement describing the contribution of the nominee (see point 5 above, if applicable).

7. The winner will receive the following:

- a. a certificate signed by the President of the IMS;
- b. membership of the IMS for the coming cycle;
- c. \$250 U.S.

8. The IMS reserves the right to make no award if submissions are not considered to be of sufficiently high quality, or to share the award between two nominees if their papers appear to be of equal merit. The winner(s) will be notified, and the award will be presented during the International Conference on Mycorrhizas.

9. The 2026 Awards Committee is composed of the following members: Jan Jansa (Chair), Alison Bennett, Adam Frew, Vasilis Kokkoris, Martina Peter, Patricia A Silva Flores, and Lin Zhang. The Awards Committee will select the winner, to be validated by the IMS Board of Directors.

10. Applications and supporting documents must be received by the Chair of the Awards Committee (Jan Jansa; jansa@biomed.cas.cz) on or before the deadline **(March 31, 2026)**.