

Society Matters

The Astronomical Society of India invites nominations for the award of the Vainu Bappu Gold Medal for the year 2010.

Instituted in the memory of late M.K. Vainu Bappu, founder President of the Society and a past President of the International Astronomical Union, this medal is awarded once every two years to honour exceptional contributions to Astronomy & Astrophysics by young scientists anywhere in the world.

The award of the medal will be based on an evaluation of the scientific work of the nominee as published or accepted for publication on or before 31st December 2010. The nominee should be 35 years of age or younger on this date.

Nominations for the award may be made by a Head of Institution, Director of an Observatory, Head of Department or by senior scientists and should include the following information:

- Name, affiliation and address of the nominee
- Date of birth
- Academic record
- Scientific accomplishments for which the nomination is made
- List of publications and reprints relevant to the nomination
- Citations, awards and any other information bearing on the scientific excellence of the nominee
- Name, designation and address of the proposer (The nomination must be dated and signed by the proposer)

Nominations must reach the secretary of the society by June 30, 2011. The nomination material must include an electronic copy of all of the above, either on a CD/DVD/USB stick or sent by e-mail.

J. S. Bagla
Secretary, ASI
IISER Mohali Transit Campus: MGSIPAP Complex
Sector 26, Chandigarh 160019
India

More information can be obtained at the ASI web site <http://www.astron-soc.in/awards.html>
You may contact the secretary for any clarifications (E-Mail: secretary@astron-soc.in).

- Nominations are invited for the Justice Oak best thesis award for 2009. Please see the society web pages for more details about the award. Nominations should be sent to the secretary of the society.
- Nominations are invited for the new discovery award. Indian astronomers who have discovered a comet, an asteroid, a nova or a supernova are eligible. More details about the award are available on the society web pages. Nominations should be sent to the secretary of the society.
- Webpages of the society are now available at <http://www.astron-soc.in/> and the new contact e-mail address is secretary@astron-soc.in.
- It has been decided to continue to support popular astronomy lectures (to be delivered at School/Junior College/Public level at preferably away from Major Cities) by ASI Members. This scheme was started during the international year of astronomy (IYA-2009). ASI members who wish to give popular talks under this scheme are requested to contact the secretary for further details.
- The executive council has approved initiating a series of symposia titled ASI symposia. These meetings are expected to be on focused topics. It is expected that these symposia will encourage discussions amongst astronomers working on similar problems. ASI will provide funding of up to Rs.1 Lakh for each symposium, and up to three such symposia will be sponsored every year. Those interested in organising an ASI symposium should get in touch with the secretary.
- The following new members have been inducted during the last two months.

ASI Life Members

1. Dr. Krishna Kumar Singh
2. Dr. Yogesh G. Wadadekar

ASI Associate Members

1. J. Jayakar Joseph
2. Manjunath Hegde
3. G. S. Suryanarayana

J. S. Bagla
Secretary
Astronomical Society of India