

Call and nomination form for the IFSM awards 2026

In 2006, the International Federation of Societies for Microscopy awarded the first John Cowley Medal at the International Microscopy Congress (IMC16) held in Sapporo Japan. Six years later, in 2012, the IFSM Executive Committee established three additional awards that complement the John Cowley Medal and encompass various fields of microscopy.

With the present call, we invite nominations for the IFSM Awards, which will be presented in 2026 at the **International Microscopy Congress - IMC21** to be held in Liverpool, UK.

The awards are devoted to the following four areas/fields upon which the award definition will be based:

- i. Diffraction Physics and Microscopy*
- ii. New Developments in Optics and Instrumentation*
- iii. Applications in Physical Sciences*
- iv. Applications in Life Sciences*

Following the order of the fields listed above, the awards are named after four internationally recognized pioneers in microscopy:

- i. The John Cowley Medal*
- ii. The Vernon Cosslett Medal*
- iii. The Hatsujiro Hashimoto Medal*
- iv. The Eduard Kellenberger Medal*

The awards honour the outstanding contributions of individual scientists and their achievements in the field of microscopy and related techniques. *The award cannot be divided: for each award a single nominee has to be selected.*

Nominations may be submitted by all national and regional societies, as well as by individuals with expertise in the field. Self-nominations are not permitted. Recommendation letters should include a brief description or motivation for the nomination (maximum of half a page).

The four recipients will be presented with a medal and a monetary prize at the International Microscopy Congress after their selection. Each awardee will be honoured by a short *laudation* and shall deliver an invited talk at the IFSM Symposium during the IMC congress.

The nomination and award process timeline is:

25 March 2025 Call for nominations to Societies

1 June 2025 Deadline for receipt of nominations

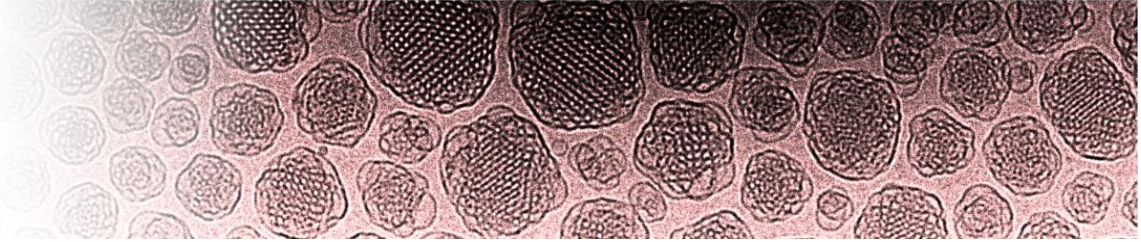
29 June 2025 Preparation of short lists in all four categories, and requests for full documentation

28 September 2025 Deadline for submission of full documentation for final vote

15 October 2025 Final vote completed and approach to awardees.

Details on the policies and procedures for the IFSM awards is attached and available [here](#). A nomination form follows below. Please send your nominations to:

Naoya Shibata shibata@sigma.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp (General Secretary of IFSM), and
Paul Verkade P.Verkade@bristol.ac.uk (Chair of Awards Committee)



Nomination form for the IFSM awards 2026

(The deadline for nominations is 1 June 2025)

Select the Medal for which you want to submit a nomination*:

- The John Cowley Medal (Diffraction Physics and Microscopy)
- The Vernon Cosslett Medal (New Developments in Optics and Instrumentation)
- The Hatsujiro Hashimoto Medal (Applications in Physical Sciences)
- The Eduard Kellenberger Medal (Applications in Life Sciences)

Please enter the details of the person to be nominated*:#:

Last Name	First Name	Title

Affiliation:

Institution or company*	
City*	
Country*	
Webpage	

Please enter your details*:

Last Name	First Name	Title

Affiliation:

Institution or company*	
City*	
Country*	
Email-address*:	
Phone number	

Please provide us with a short summary of the scientific merits of the nominee (max. 300 words):

Alternatively, you can send a word or PDF document, attached to this form.

* *Mandatory fields*

Please note that members of the IFSM executive board cannot be nominated.

The selection process will be based on a two-stage decision and in the second stage the IFSM award committee will need a more detailed justification of the nomination. Please provide us with the name of a referee who could help us with a more detailed description of the merits of the nominee (if not yourself):

Name	First Name	Title

Affiliation:

Institution or company	
City	
Country	
Email-address	
Phone number	

Please include "IFSM Awards 2023" in the subject field and send your nominations to

Naoya Shibata shibata@sigma.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp (General Secretary of IFSM), and

Paul Verkade P.Verkade@bristol.ac.uk (Chair of Awards Committee)

The deadline for the receipt of nominations for IMC20 is 1 June 2025.