

Awards and Distinguished Papers

IJCAI-15 Award for Research Excellence

The Research Excellence award is given to a scientist who has carried out a program of research of consistently high quality throughout an entire career yielding several substantial results. Past recipients of this honor are the most illustrious group of scientists from the field of artificial intelligence: John McCarthy (1985), Allen Newell (1989), Marvin Minsky (1991), Raymond Reiter (1993), Herbert Simon (1995), Aravind Joshi (1997), Judea Pearl (1999), Donald Michie (2001), Nils Nilsson (2003), Geoffrey E. Hinton (2005), Alan Bundy (2007), Victor Lesser (2009), Robert Anthony Kowalski (2011), and Hector Levesque (2013).

The winner of the 2015 Award for Research Excellence is Barbara Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences at the School of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Harvard University. Professor Grosz is recognized for her pioneering research in natural language processing and in theories and applications of multiagent collaboration.

IJCAI-15 Computers and Thought Award

The Computers and Thought Award is presented at IJCAI conferences to outstanding young scientists in artificial intelligence. The award was established with royalties received from the book, *Computers and Thought*, edited by Edward Feigenbaum and Julian Feldman. It is currently supported by income from IJCAI funds. Past recipients of this honor have been Terry Winograd (1971), Patrick Winston (1973), Chuck Rieger (1975), Douglas Lenat (1977), David Marr (1979), Gerald Sussman (1981), Tom Mitchell (1983), Hector Levesque (1985), Johan de Kleer (1987), Henry Kautz (1989), Rodney Brooks (1991), Martha Pollack (1991), Hiroaki Kitano (1993), Sarit Kraus (1995), Stuart Russell (1995), Leslie Kaelbling (1997), Nicholas Jennings (1999), Daphne Koller (2001), Tuomas Sandholm (2003), Peter Stone (2007), Carlos Guestrin (2009), Andrew Ng (2009), Vincent Conitzer (2011), Malte Helmert (2011), and Kristen Grauman (2013).

The winner of the 2015 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award is Ariel Procaccia, assistant professor at the Computer Science Department, Carnegie Mellon University. Professor Procaccia is recognized for his contributions to the fields of computational social choice and computational economics, and for efforts to make advanced fair division techniques more widely accessible.

IJCAI-15 John McCarthy Award

The Trustees of the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) are pleased to announce the John McCarthy research award. This award is intended to recognize established mid-career researchers that have built up a major track record of research excellence in artificial intelligence. Recipients of the award will have made significant contributions to the re-

search agenda in their area and will have a first-rate profile of influential research results.

The award is named for John McCarthy (1927-2011), who is widely recognized as one of the founders of the field of artificial intelligence. As well as giving the discipline its name, McCarthy made fundamental contributions of lasting importance to computer science in general and artificial intelligence in particular, including time-sharing operating systems, the LISP programming languages, knowledge representation, commonsense reasoning, and the logicist paradigm in artificial intelligence. The award was established with the full support and encouragement of the McCarthy family.

The winner of the 2015 inaugural John McCarthy Award is Bart Selman, professor at the Department of Computer Science, Cornell University. Professor Selman is recognized for expanding our understanding of problem complexity and developing new algorithms for efficient inference.

Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award

The IJCAI Distinguished Service Award was established in 1979 by the IJCAI Trustees to honor senior scientists in AI for contributions and service to the field during their careers. Previous recipients have been Bernard Meltzer (1979), Arthur Samuel (1983), Donald Walker (1989), Woodrow Bledsoe (1991), Daniel G. Bobrow (1993), Wolfgang Bibel (1999), Barbara Grosz (2001), Alan Bundy (2003), Raj Reddy (2005), Ronald J. Brachman (2007), Luigia Carlucci Aiello (2009), Raymond C. Perrault (2011), and Wolfgang Wahlster (2013).

At IJCAI-15, the Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award will be given to Anthony G. Cohn, professor of automated reasoning at the University of Leeds. As a pioneering researcher in knowledge representation and reasoning, Professor Cohn is recognized for his substantial contributions, as well as his outstanding service to the international, European and UK AI communities, including terms as President of IJCAI, ECCAI, KR Inc., and AISB, and as editor-in-chief of the *AI journal*, where he made significant contributions to the success of the journal and to the wider dissemination of AI into the scientific community.

IJCAI-15 Distinguished Papers

Distinguished Papers

Recursive Decomposition for Nonconvex Optimization

Abram L. Friesen and Pedro Domingos

Bayesian Active Learning for Posterior Estimation

Kirthevasan Kandasamy, Jeff Schneider, Barnabas Póczos

Honorary Mention

Reasonable Highly Expressive Query Languages

Pierre Bourhis, Markus Krötzsch, Sebastian Rudolph