

Anthony (Tony) Williams Sensory Award 2024

AWARD GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

The AIFST Sensory Award is The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) award is open to young members of the Institute (under 35 years) including undergraduate and post graduate student members, who demonstrate an interest and passion for sensory research. The AIFST Sensory Award is sponsored annually by Sensory Solutions in honour of Anthony (Tony) Williams.

Dr. Tony Williams was one of the pioneers of the Sensory Research Industry in the United Kingdom and a world authority in sensory and consumer science. Tony's enthusiasm and passion also helped establish Sensory Research in Australia, whilst assisting with the inception of Sensory Solutions in 1996.

Tony was educated at the University of Leeds where he read chemistry. He then joined the newly formed flavour chemistry group in the Food Science department at Leeds University where he gained his PhD in 1966 under the supervision of Harry Nursten working on the volatile flavour components of blackcurrant. Tony always challenged the boundaries of science and in the 1970s one of these challenges was the correlation of flavour chemistry with the perception of quality. This was a period of great expansion in both flavour science and sensory science. Tony developed novel approaches to sensory analysis, including the technique of free-choice profiling. He rightly deserves much credit for the modern approaches that combine sensory and consumer measures of quality with physical and chemical analyses to provide optimum food quality. Tony organised conferences on flavour and sensory science, wrote books and co-designed the sensory software package SENPAQ which is still in use 25 years later. In 1986, with David Thomson and John Wren he started Food Quality and Preference.

Tony will be remembered for his enthusiasm about scientific research, which was so readily apparent to all who met him. Perhaps an explanation for some of Tony's enthusiasm can be seen in a simple comment he made to colleagues many years ago: *"When your work is also your hobby, how can you fail to enjoy it"*.

INTENTION OF AWARD

The AIFST Sensory Award provides the opportunity for young members of the Institute to demonstrate their interest and passion for sensory research through the submission of a unique, short paper on a sensory related topic of their choosing and interest. The submission should be unique and not include a republished piece of work or a previously published paper however it may include a revised or rewritten component of a sensory thesis which has been specifically prepared for this award.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

The Award is open only to young members of the Institute (under 35 years) including undergraduate and post graduate student members.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- a) AIFST shall call for nominations for the Award via channels deemed appropriate and aligned with the award program, as managed by the AIFST. The notice shall give the closing date of entries, a brief summary of the award conditions, and an address for return nominations. The notice shall also include date and place of presentation of the Award.
- b) Nominees shall submit by the designated closing date to AIFST a short paper for assessment.
- c) No late submissions shall be accepted, although AIFST reserves the right to extend, or change the closing dates for entries at its discretion.
- d) Multi-authored submissions shall not be accepted.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- a) The basis for the selection of a person to receive the Award shall be the merit of a written submission and the quality of its subsequent presentation in the spoken form before an audience as reviewed by the judging panel. It will be from the submitted papers that up to two finalists will be selected to present their submissions for final assessment. Each entrant shall give an undertaking to attend at the time and place designated by AIFST in the notice to present the paper.
- b) The subject of the paper may be any aspect of Sensory Research, that is the assessment of a product / pack (actual or conceptual) by a panel, be it a trained panel, or a consumer panel, using 1 or more of the senses, or the understanding of the perceived impact on the senses as a response to an outside influence and may be either a critical review or the result of original research. The format for the written paper shall conform to annual award guidelines as listed on the AIFST website.
- c) To be eligible for assessment for the Award, each submission is required to contain:
 - 1) Sensory Research paper on a topic of choice that is no more than 1,000 words in length
 - 2) Accompanying 250-word abstract on the paper
 - 3) 200 – 300-word statement outlining why there are applying for the award and the value it would add to their career development, and
 - 4) Current Curriculum vitae.
- d) By submitting an entry to the Award, nominees are aware that there is the potential to publish the paper in any AIFST channels including, but not limited to, *food australia* journal.

JUDGING PROCESS

- a) A maximum of two (2) finalists will be chosen by the judging committee. Award finalists shall receive registration to the AIFST Convention, or equivalent event at which the finalist(s) will present.
- b) Immediately after the close of nomination, in conjunction with Sensory Solutions, AIFST shall invite three appropriate members of the food industry to act as the Award Judging Panel. The members of such Judging Panel shall not be members of the Board and shall not be professional or personal associates of the nominees. In addition, the AIFST shall act as Convener of the Award Panel. However, the Convener shall have no primary voting rights and only in the case of equality of points obtained by nominees, shall (s)he has a casting vote.
- c) The judging committee shall consist of one employee of Sensory Solutions, one academic and one employee of a food manufacturer or supplier of food products, ingredients or otherwise (includes a chef).
- d) Should a Judging Panel member withdraw at any stage, the AIFST CEO, in conjunction with Sensory Solutions, shall appoint a substitute panelist.
- e) AIFST shall notify the panelists of their appointments. AIFST shall acknowledge to each nominee the receipt of the nomination.
- f) AIFST shall provide the Judging Panel copies of each paper, together with clearly defined instructions for registering their decision, using the points system set out in the judging guidelines. The Judging Panel shall read the submission(s) entered for the award and select the submission(s) of greatest merit based on a scoring system determined by AIFST.
- g) If there are no papers of sufficient merit, the Judging Panel shall recommend to AIFST that no award be made that year. Minimum score for a paper submission is 65/100 points to be eligible as a finalist and oral presentations must score 65/100 or greater to be eligible as an Award recipient.
- h) AIFST shall receive and tally the points allocated by each Judge to each nominee. The total points shall be converted to a percentage. AIFST shall notify the author(s) who received the top 2 marks (the finalists). The non-finalists will also be notified at this time.
- i) The successful author(s) shall attend at the time and place designated by AIFST to present their paper(s) to a public session. Each presentation shall be not less than 10 minutes and not greater than 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes for questions).
- j) The Award Judging Panel shall hear the papers as presented and allot scores according to a scoring system determined by the AIFST Award Guidelines.

- k) AIFST shall calculate judge's scores and the author of the paper receiving the highest total score shall be determined the winner. AIFST shall calculate judge's scores and the author of the paper receiving the highest total score shall be determined the winner. However, in the case that the

Judging Panel cannot reach a majority decision, the AIFST CEO or nominated delegate shall have the casting vote.

- l) Authors of outstanding but unsuccessful papers in any year, at the discretion of the Judging Panel, may be invited to resubmit their papers in the following year of the award, provided all other rules are met. These authors may resubmit the unsuccessful paper in its original or modified form if they so desire.

AWARD PRIZE

The Award recipient will receive an AIFST Certificate of Merit and a cash prize. The runner up shall receive an AIFST Certificate of Commendation and a cash prize.

Award timing

Date	Action	Responsible
25 March 2024	Call for nominations	AIFST
20 May 2024	Close of nominations	AIFST
21 May - 7 June 2024	Judging of awards	Judging panel
17 June 2024	Nominees advised of outcome	AIFST
6 August 2024	Awards Ceremony @ AIFST24	AIFST