

# Malcolm Bird Award 2021

## BACKGROUND

The AIFST Malcolm Bird Commemorative Award is named in honour of Malcolm Bird, fifth President of the Institute (1975-77), who passed away in 1977 soon after completing his term of Presidency and who had always shown an active concern for the welfare of young members. This award is for young AIFST members who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, and integrity in their profession.

## CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- a) This Award is open to all current financial members of AIFST who are under 30 years of age at 30 June in the year of the Award.
- b) Nominees must have been a financial member of AIFST for a minimum of 12 months prior to the closing date for nominations.
- c) The subject of the award entry abstract and subsequent paper and oral presentation shall be any topic relating to food science and or technology.

## NOMINATION PROCESS

- a) AIFST shall call for nominations for the Award via channels deemed appropriate and aligned with the overall AIFST awards program. The call for nominations shall outline the closing date of entries; provide the award guidelines and nomination form; and details for return nominations.
- b) Nominations are to be completed via the AIFST Nomination Form which includes a technical abstract, not exceeding 1000 words, based upon any aspect of food science and technology, and may be either a critical review or the result of original research.
- c) Nominations must be accompanied by:
  - I. Current Curriculum vitae which includes achievements in study and professional positions to date and extent of involvement in the Institute
  - II. 200-word statement by peer or department head indicating how the nominee has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and integrity.
  - III. A statement from a supervisor of the nominee to the effect that the paper is an individual effort.
- d) Multi-authored papers shall not be accepted.
- e) No late submissions shall be accepted, although AIFST reserves the right to extend, or change the closing dates for entries at its discretion and without prior notice.
- f) Each entrant shall give an undertaking to attend at the time and place designated by AIFST to receive the award.

## JUDGING PROCESS

- a) AIFST shall invite three (3) Judges who are 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 AIFST Board, and shall not be professional or personal associates of the nominee/s. In addition, AIFST shall act as Convener of the Award Panel. However, AIFST shall have no primary voting rights and in the case that the Judging Panel cannot reach a majority decision, the AIFST CEO or nominated delegate shall have the casting vote.
- b) Should a Judging Panel member withdraw at any stage, the AIFST CEO or nominated delegated shall appoint a substitute panelist.
- c) AIFST shall notify the Judging Panel of their appointments. AIFST shall acknowledge each nominee with receipt of the nomination.
- d) AIFST shall provide the Judging Panel copies of each nomination, together with the judging guidelines which outline the points system for assessing nominations. The Judging Panel shall read the nominations for the award and select the three (3) highest scoring submissions on the basis of the judging guidelines in Attachment 1.
- e) If the Judging Panel determines there are no nominations of sufficient merit, the Judging Panel shall recommend to AIFST that no award be made that year. AIFST's decision on whether an award shall be made is final.
- f) AIFST shall notify the successful nomination(s) as determined by the Judging Panel in line with the award timelines. AIFST shall also notify non-successful nominees at this time.
- g) 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 that year's nomination criteria is met. These authors may resubmit the unsuccessful paper in its original or modified form if they so desire.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

- a) Abstract submissions will be assessed against the judging matrix in Attachment 1 which includes aspects relating to relevance to food science and technology (15%); compliance with correct use of scientific terminology and AIFST abstract guidelines (30%); grammar, formatting and adherence to Award Guidelines (35%) and demonstration of results and industry feasibility (20%).
- b) Finalists written papers will be assessed against the judging matrix in Attachment 2. Final written proposals may be up to 5,000 words (or equivalent) and/or up to ten A4 pages including images and charts, but not including reference lists (this may be additional pages). Text must have 1.5 spacing in fonts no smaller than 11pts.

To be eligible finalist written reports must be submitted by 5.00pm on Friday, 28 May 2021 via email to AIFST with Subject Line: 'Attention: Malcolm Bird Award Written Report' to [aifst@aifst.com.au](mailto:aifst@aifst.com.au).

- c) Finalist Presentations will be assessed against the judging matrix. All oral presentations will be assessed via the following process:

- I. Each paper shall be presented on for not less than 10 minutes and not greater than 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes for questions).
- II. The Award Judging Panel shall hear the papers as presented and allot scores according to a scoring system determined by the AIFST Award Guidelines (Attachment 3).
- III. AIFST shall calculate judge's scores and the author of the paper receiving the highest total score shall be determined the winner.
- IV. AIFST will arrange a vote only to break a tied score. However, if two competitors receive the same total score, the judges shall convene and determine an outright winner reviewing both the written submission and the oral presentation.

#### **AWARD PRIZE**

The award finalists shall receive a complimentary registration to the Annual AIFST Convention to provide their presentation. All other costs relating to participation in the Award are to be covered by the finalist.

All award finalists shall receive a certificate and the overall award winner will receive a cash award as determined on an annual basis by AIFST. The prize will be presented at the Annual AIFST Convention.

#### **AWARD DATES**

Date	Action	Responsible
22 March 2021	Call for nominations	AIFST
10 May 2021	Close of nominations	AIFST
11 May – 31 May 2021	Judging of awards	Judging panel
07 June 2021	Nominees advised of outcome	AIFST
26 July 2021	Award Ceremony @ AIFST21	AIFST