

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2024 Young Scientist Award at MTAA-16

The International Committee on Activation Analysis (ICAA) consists of academics and professionals dedicated to the promotion and usage of nuclear analytical techniques in research and applied studies. The ICAA will present the 2024 Young Scientist Award (YSA-2024) at the Sixteenth International Conference on Modern Trends in Activation Analysis (MTAA-16) to be held during 2024 May 05-10 in Budapest, Hungary. The applications will be adjudicated by the 2024 Young Scientist Award Selection Panel (YSASP-2024) constituted by ICAA in consultation with the MTAA-16 Organizing Committee. This Call for Applications will be displayed on the MTAA-16 web site (<https://mtaa-icaa.org/mtaa16/>) no later than 2023 June 30 and sent to ICAA members for distribution to their colleagues and nuclear scientists around the world. The deadline for receiving applications by the Chair of YSASP-2024, (Zsolt Révay, zsolt.revay@frm2.tum.de), is **2023 November 30**. The decision of the YSASP-2024 will be announced by 2024 January 15.

This Award is international in scope. Proposals as well as sponsorship are being sought from the international community.

Aim

The YSA-2024 will be given to an individual as opposed to a group in recognition of his/her outstanding contribution and early career achievements in nuclear analytical methodology and its applications, i.e. in the topics presented at MTAA-16. These are: experiments with INAA, RNAA, PNAA, PGAA, PAA, PIGE, PIXE, FNAA, also NDP (neutron depth profiling), comparison with other techniques, applications of activation (isotope production etc.); neutron sources for activation and their characterizations: research reactors, isotopic neutron sources, neutron generators; AA facilities and instrumentation, detection techniques; the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence in AA; software for AA, evaluation; reference materials used in AA; presentation of analytical results, laboratory information management systems, QA/QC; industrial applications and AA facilities used by the industry (on-line analyzers, bore-hole logging etc.). (XRF alone or simulation without experimental verification cannot be the major topics of the manuscript.)

Application procedure for the award

Applications are widely solicited from the international community of practicing young scientists. There are no restrictions with respect to gender, nationality, ethnicity, field of

degree, and other factors, as long as the applicant's achievements may be considered outstanding and follow other rules of the award.

The candidates for the award must submit an application package in PDF format to (Zsolt Révay), Chair of YSASP-2024, by email (zsolt.revay@frm2.tum.de) before 2023 November 30. Hard copies of the application by postal mail or fax will not be accepted.

An application will be considered complete when the following items are received by the Chair of YSASP-2024 by the deadline of 2023 November 30:

- An application letter from the candidate duly signed by him/her. This letter should indicate the commitment of the candidate to make an oral presentation at MTAA-16.
- A completed form given on page 4 of 4 of this document.
- A copy of the document certifying the applicant's age. The applicant must be less than 40 years on 2024 May 05.
- A complete curriculum vitae of the candidate with a list of publications with principal authorship underlined.
- A summary of achievements and expected continued contributions to the field to justify the award to the candidate.
- A manuscript in English following the JRNC guidelines. The manuscript with the candidate as principal author should be the basis of the Award Lecture at the conference. The manuscript shall not exceed 25 single-spaced pages typed in Times New Roman 12 point font including all figures, tables, and references. It will be reviewed according to the JRNC procedures prior to acceptance for publication.
- An abstract for MTAA-16 conference.
- Two confidential sponsor letters on their official letterheads sent directly by the sponsors to (Zsolt Révay), Chair of YSASP-2024, by email (zsolt.revay@frm2.tum.de) before 2023 November 30. Sponsor letters included in the application package will not be accepted. The sponsors' letters, one of which can be from a peer or mentor at the candidate's institution, should address in a complete, comprehensive, and convincing manner the outstanding achievements of and expected continuing contributions to the field by the candidate that deserve recognition through this award.

Criteria and selection process

The applicant must ensure that all the required materials, except the two sponsor letters, are included in the package prior to sending it to the Chair of YSASP-2024 by email. The Chair will acknowledge the receipt of the application and evaluate its completeness regarding the documents required. All submissions for the YSA-2024 will be reviewed and adjudicated by YSASP-2024. Additional materials such as more than two sponsor letters, web page of the candidate, *etc.*, will not be considered by the

panel. The applications will be considered based entirely on the strength of the documentation provided.

The selection panel will look for:

- Excellence in nuclear analytical techniques in the field of its applications.
- Original and independent contribution.
- Thoroughness and depth of understanding of the research area.
- Impact of the research.
- Future perspectives of the researcher's activity in the field.

Rules

The applicant for the YSA-2024 must be less than 40 years old on 2024 May 05.

The submitted paper and abstract shall be considered original for the MTAA-16 conference and should not have been submitted for publication to any other conference or journal.

The award manuscript will be considered to form the basis of presentation by the author at the MTAA-16 conference.

The identity of the applicants for the YSA-2024 and all associated documentation will be kept confidential within the YSASP-2024. The applicants will be notified about the Award decision by 2024 January 15.

The YSASP-2024 decision shall be considered final by all parties and cannot be appealed or reconsidered based on supplemental documentation.

The award

The Award is established to promote the awardee's introduction to the activation analysis community. The recipient is expected to participate in the MTAA-16 conference and to present his/her work in the Award Lecture. The YSA-2024 comprises an engraved plaque which will be presented at MTAA-16 and a travel grant to Budapest to participate at the conference. The financial grant will cover the airfare (ticket to be arranged by Akadémiai Kiadó), hotel at the venue and the registration fee of MTAA-16. If the awardee cannot attend MTAA-16, the engraved plaque will be sent to him by mail but no money will be transferred.

Further inquiries regarding YSA-2024 should be directed to the Chair, YSASP-2024 (zsolt.revay@frm2.tum.de)