



Guidelines for the nomination of
candidates for the
“Nu Award for Pioneers in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”
and the
“Nu Young Scientist Award for Pioneering work in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”

Preface

Nu instruments is a leading company in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry and plasma-based spectroscopies and supports all kinds of novel applications and instrumental developments in this field. For the Winter Conference in Plasma Spectrochemistry 2026, taking place in Tucson AZ, Nu Instruments is sponsoring two awards to promote pioneering work in the field of analytical inorganic mass spectrometry. The awards will complement existing awards in plasma spectroscopies in Europe and the Americas; thus, previous award winners are excluded from this award, as are representatives of competing companies in plasma spectroscopies and inorganic mass spectrometry.

1 General

1.1 The new **“Nu Award for Pioneers in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”** promotes analytical and instrumental developments and applications in inorganic mass spectrometry and is awarded for continued outstanding contributions in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry. The award will be presented at the forthcoming Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry and will include an invited Award Plenary Lecture at the conference presented by the awardee. The winner will also receive a cash prize of \$3000

1.2 The new **“Nu Young Scientist Award for Pioneering work in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”** is to honor and promote outstanding contributions to the field of inorganic mass spectrometry by rising younger scientists at early stages of their careers. Candidates must be not older than 40 years at the time of nomination. The winner of the new award will receive a cash prize of \$3000 and should present an invited Keynote lecture at the conference.

1.3 The final decision is based on the selection made by the award committee.

1.4 Nu instruments will transfer the prize directly to the organizer of the conference, who will organize the formal issues and final payment process to the awardee.

Both winners will be announced during the conference (see details of the program).

2 Selection

2.1 Selection will be made by the award committee from nominations/applications submitted electronically before the deadline to the chairman of the award committee.

2.2 The call for nominations will be advertised on the homepage of the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry, by email to the attendees of the Winter Conferences and other distribution lists.

2.3 The awardees' names will be published in the final program and the awards will be presented during the conference.

3 Eligibility

3.1 “Nu Award for Pioneers in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”

3.1.1 The work being recognized should usually have been carried out over an extended period of time (more than 10 years) in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry.

3.1.2 Nominations/applications can be made by any scientist of any nationality who is working in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry.

3.1.3 Persons directly affiliated with companies involved in the development of analytical instruments will not be considered either as an awardee or as a nominator.

3.1.4 There is no age restriction on eligibility.

3.2 “Nu Young Scientist Award for pioneering work in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry”

3.2.1 Nominations/applications can be made by any scientist of any nationality who is working in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry.

3.2.2 Persons directly affiliated with companies involved in the development of analytical instruments will not be considered either as an awardee or as a nominator.

3.2.3 The award is intended to promote the work of rising scientists at early stages of their careers and to encourage their further career development. Candidates must be not older than 40 years at the time of nomination (the age limit can be extended due to circumstantial delays such as parental leave, long-term illnesses, military services or other good reasons, which have to be mentioned in the nomination letter). Also promising PhD students, whose thesis represents an outstanding contribution to the field of inorganic mass spectrometry can be nominated.

3.2.4 The award can be based on either a single, highly important contribution, or on a series of studies and developments in the field of inorganic mass spectrometry.

4 Nomination/application guidelines

Nominations (including applications/self-nominations) must clearly indicate whether the candidate is to be considered for the Nu Award for Pioneers in Inorganic Mass Spectrometry or the Nu Young Scientist Award and a number of selected references (5 for the Pioneer Award, and 3 for the Young Scientist Award) should be discussed in the nomination letter to highlight their importance.

4.1 For the **Young Scientist Award**, the nomination must be based on at least one new development or application which has no direct similarities or analogies to existing techniques or applications in inorganic mass spectrometry. At least one but not more than three publications must be submitted as well as a statement of not more than two pages, which describes the significance of the work to inorganic mass spectrometry.

4.2. For the **Pioneers Award**, continuous contributions over a period of more than 10 years are the basis of this award. A two-page nomination letter and a publication list must be included. A two-page statement (nomination letter) must explain how the candidate contributed during this period of time in an outstanding way to inorganic mass spectrometry. Up to 5 selected publications (reprints or preprints) should accompany the nomination.

4.3. For both awards a short curriculum vitae (maximum one page) and corresponding contact details must also be attached.

5 Award Committee

Members of the conference committee are allowed to contribute nominations for both awards.

5.1 The award committee (jury) is comprised of five members including a representative of Nu Instruments. The members are selected by the chairman of the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry. Previous winners are invited to join the committee where there is no conflict of interest. The total of five votes is distributed (one vote each) among the jury members.

5.2 The jury members must disclose any potential conflict of interest (e.g. either nominating or submitting for the award or a former mentor or mentee). Members in conflict will be excused from participation in the assessment of the award.

5.3 The initial evaluation is carried out individually by the committee members. The committee members submit their choices to the chairman. The awardees are chosen through a majority vote.

5.4 If there is no majority, the Chairman – after a discussion with the committee members - makes the final decision among the candidates who have received votes from the committee.

5.5 The award cannot be split and one awardee only should be selected for each category.

5.6 The chairman informs the applicants/nominees about the final decision of the committee.

6 Presentation

6.1 Both winners should attend the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry in person if possible. Both are invited to present award lectures at a time designated by the program of the conference (in person or virtually).

6.2 The award will be presented before the awardee plenary or keynote lecture by a representative of Nu Instruments.

7 Required documents for nomination

The nomination/application documents should include the following:

- a nomination letter (not more than 2 pages) summarizing the contributions and achievements.
- Up to five publications (**Award for Pioneers**) or up to three relevant publications (**Young Scientist Award**). For the **Young Scientist Award**, preprints of unpublished manuscripts are permitted. For the **Award for Pioneers**, only

successfully peer-reviewed publications should be included. These contributions should be discussed in the nomination letter to summarize the relevant achievements in inorganic mass spectrometry, including plasma-based mass spectrometry.

- a short, one-page curriculum vitae of the nominee,
- a publication list of the nominee.

Please submit your nomination including all relevant documents (pdf documents) before the deadline (see announcement) to the chairperson of the jury: norbi.jakubowski@gmail.com