

SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND

SFI ST. PATRICK'S DAY SCIENCE MEDAL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2021

Key Dates

Call for nominations launch

9th September 2020

Deadline for receipt of nominations

30th October 2020

Formal award announcements

March 2021

1. Background

The Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) St. Patrick's Day Science Medal is awarded annually to a distinguished scientist, engineer or technology leader living and working in the USA with strong Irish connections. Running since 2014, the competition was further developed in 2016 to include a specific award for an industry leader.

Both the industry and academic medals recognise individuals who are not only outstanding in their fields of expertise but who also have demonstrably assisted researchers in Ireland in either academia or industry – via mentorship, supervision, collaboration, industrial development, entrepreneurship or who have made significant contributions to developing the research ecosystem in Ireland.

2. Past Medal Recipients

Year	Academic Medal Recipient	Industry Medal Recipient*
2014	Dr Garret Fitzgerald, University of Pennsylvania	
2015	Prof Katherine Fitzgerald, University of Massachusetts	
2016	Prof Séamus Davis, University College Cork (ex Cornell University)	Dr Craig Barrett, former CEO of Intel
2017	Prof Adrian Raftery, University of Washington	Dr T. Pearse Lyons, Founder and President of Alltech
2018	Prof Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado Boulder	Mr David McCourt, Founder and CEO, Granahan McCourt Capital
2019	Prof Eamon Quigley, Houston Methodist Hospital	Mr Mike Mahoney, CEO Boston Scientific
2020	Prof Neville Hogan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Dr Ann Kelleher, Technology Development Lead, Intel Corporation

*Industry medal awarded from 2016

3. Eligibility Criteria

The nominee¹ must be an Irish² scientist, engineer or industry leader who, at the time of the nomination, is living and working in the United States. The specific criteria for the academic and industry medal are described in sections 3.1 and 3.2 respectively:

3.1 Academic Medal

- The nominee should be an outstanding academic researcher and recognised as one of the field-leaders in their discipline.
- The nominee should hold or have held a full professorial position, or equivalent, at a major US research performing organisation.
- The nominee should have contributed to academic and/or industrial development in Ireland.

3.2 Industry Medal

- The nominee should be an inspirational business leader operating/have operated in a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) related business sector.

¹ Self-nominations are not accepted.

² Irish citizens, persons of Irish descent, persons entitled to Irish citizenship or persons with a strong historical and enduring connection to Ireland.

- The nominee should hold or have held a senior executive position in industry.
- The nominee should have contributed to academic and/or industrial development in Ireland.

4. Nomination Procedure

- All nomination submissions must be made on the official nomination form.
- All nominations must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 3.
- The nomination submission must include:
 - Nominee details
 - Nominator details
 - Nominator support statement (max 2 pages)³
 - Nominee CV/Resume (max two pages)⁴
 - Optional - up to two letters of support may also be included.
- The deadline for receipt of nomination submissions is **Friday, October 30th, 2020**. All submissions must be sent via email in .doc format to sciencemedal@sfi.ie.
- Eligible nominations will remain valid for a period of five years, including the year of nomination.

5. Review Process

Each eligible nomination will be reviewed by the selection committee based upon the following criteria:

1. **Scientific and Technical Excellence** - Scientific and Technical Excellence as demonstrated through leadership in their field of endeavour, research impact (please refer to the [SFI Impact Statement](#)) and measurable outputs such as citations and commercial outputs. Industry candidates should also reach the same levels of esteem both in their field of speciality and their industry accomplishments. *Weighting of review scores 50%*
2. **Global Recognition** - Evidence of recognition of excellence at an international level as demonstrated through achievement of international awards, honours and membership of prestigious societies. Industry leadership and business success particularly in the case of Industry candidates. *Weighting of review scores 30%*
3. **Engagement with Ireland** - Evidence of the nominees' commitment to the support of the research and/or industry community in Ireland and to Ireland's wider economic development as evidenced through ongoing and meaningful collaboration, mentorship of Irish researchers/companies, national policy dialogue participation, representation of Irish research at an international level. *Weighting of review scores 20%*

The Selection Committee will be made up of high-ranking individuals, external to Science Foundation Ireland, drawn from academia, industry and Government bodies, who will review and evaluate the merit of all eligible nominees and recommend the final selections to the SFI Executive Committee.

6. Medal Award

Both Medals will be awarded by the Taoiseach⁵ during the official St. Patrick's Day Programme in the United States in March 2021⁶.

³ CVs/Resumes longer than two pages will, without exception, be cut off at the end of page two.

⁴ Nominator support statements longer than two pages will, without exception, be cut off at the end of page two.

⁵ Subject to final programme arrangements by the Department of the Taoiseach.

⁶ Subject to travel and possible restrictions, programming may take on a virtual format.