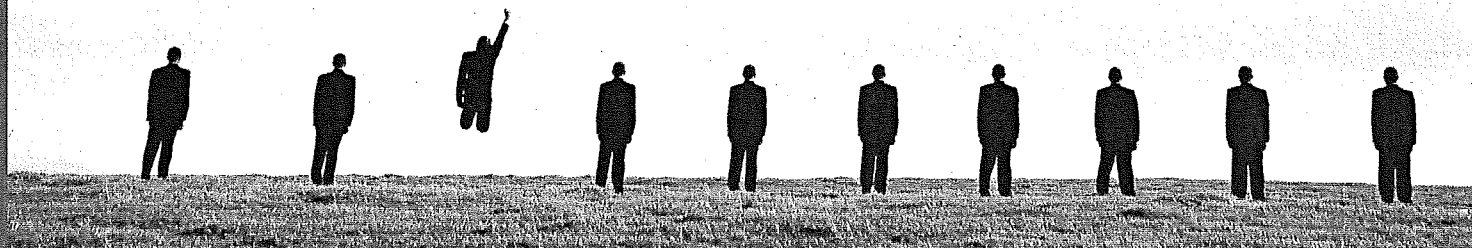




European **Latsis** Prize  
2008



INVITATION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES

The European Science Foundation (ESF) invites nominations for the European Latsis Prize 2008. The Prize, of a value of 100 000 Swiss Francs, is presented each year by the International Latsis Foundation at the ESF Annual Assembly to a scientist or research group in recognition of outstanding and innovative contributions in a selected field of research. The research field for the 2008 Prize is:

*“Astrophysics”*

Astrophysics, unique in encompassing the application of physics as a whole, has been extraordinarily successful in revealing a consistent picture of the development of the Universe from a hot, dense almost homogeneous beginning to its enormously expanded and widely complex present state. Largely this has been achieved by close conjunction of theoretical analysis and observational evidence in complementary, supportive ways. In recent decades the advent both of new lines of thought and a wide range of powerful astronomical telescopes and instruments working from the ground and in space has led to fundamentally new understanding of events and processes occurring over substantial cosmic timescales. In this, much progress in defining the structural and chemical development of the Universe has come from tracing in detail the interplay of the stellar, galactic and intergalactic components. More locally, detections of planetary systems around other stars are well established. At the same time many new problems have arisen. High among them is the question of the natures of the so-called dark matter and dark energy that the evidence shows together account for 96% of the mass-energy content of the Universe and fundamentally influence its productive past development and its ultimate dissipation. The 2008 European Latsis Prize will be awarded for an outstanding contribution to astrophysics through studies either in observational or theoretical fields or a combination of both.

The criteria used in the selection procedure will be scientific excellence, societal impact and contribution to European progress.<sup>1</sup>

Nominations may be received for individual scholars or for research groups, but no self nominations will be accepted. All nominations should be clearly presented and include the nomination statement (maximum 2 pages) setting out clear reasons for the submission, complete *Curriculum Vitae* and a full list of publications.

The nominations will be evaluated by a high-level committee of experts in the field.

The European Latsis Prize 2008 will be awarded on the occasion of the Annual Assembly of the European Science Foundation on Thursday 27 November 2008, in Stockholm, Sweden.

<sup>1</sup> All nominees will be considered irrespective of age, sex, religion or nationality.

Former laureates of the European Latsis Prize

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| 1999 | “Research and/or Innovation in Education”<br>Jürgen Baumert, Germany             |
| 2000 | “Molecular Structure”<br>Kenneth Holmes, Germany/UK                              |
| 2001 | “Climate Research”<br>André Berger, Belgium                                      |
| 2002 | “Cognitive Sciences”<br>Annette Karmiloff-Smith, UK                              |
| 2003 | “Archaeology”<br>Colin Renfrew, UK   |
| 2004 | “Bioinformatics”<br>Amos Bairoch, Switzerland                                    |
| 2005 | “Nano-Engineering”<br>Donal Bradley, UK  |
| 2006 | “Immigration and Social Cohesion in Modern Societies”<br>Rainer Bauböck, Austria |
| 2007 | “Medical Imaging”<br>Willi Kalender, Germany                                     |

Nomination Statement

This should be contained in no more than 2 pages describing the candidate's qualifications for the European Latsis Prize.

The Nomination Statement should cover:

- The merits of an individual or group's work on the present state of the topic.
- The impact on the scientific community of the work of the individual candidate or group nominated.
- Recognition by peers within the scientific community.
- Influence on practice in the field through publications and other means of dissemination, including teaching and training students in the field.
- Contributions made to scientific excellence, societal impact and European progress.