

REGULATION/STANDING ORDER 2

ASSAF SCIENCE-FOR-SOCIETY GOLD MEDALS

- 2.1 ASSAf shall annually award two gold medals for the application of scientific thinking in the service of society, called the "ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medals".
- 2.2 Up to two medals shall be awarded annually in order to enable ASSAf to give recognition to the wide range of fields and activities from which candidates could come under consideration. No distinction shall be made between the two medals and no order of fields and activities over multiple years is prescribed.
- 2.3 The Council shall make an award at its sole discretion, acting upon the recommendation of an awards panel which shall be appointed to advise on candidates that can be considered for the award. The Council shall reserve the right not to award a medal in a particular year.

Selection procedures

- 2.4 A gold medal awards panel shall be appointed annually by the Council for managing the awards process, consider nominated candidates and make recommendations to Council both on candidates, and on criteria for the award and procedures or mechanisms relating to the brief of the panel.
- 2.5 The panel shall consist of four members, of whom at least one must be a member of the Council, and all of whom shall be Members of ASSAf. The panel shall be constituted in such a way that a broad range of fields of science and scholarly work is represented; some form of continuity shall also be maintained in the panel from year to year.
- 2.6 The panel shall be free to consult widely in the process of executing its brief, and still maintain the confidentiality of nominations and information obtained in this regard.
- 2.7 If a member of the awards panel is nominated for the award, and wishes to be considered, that member shall withdraw from the panel immediately after the nomination is received by the Academy secretariat, and the Council shall then appoint another member to the awards panel.
- 2.8 The Council shall solicit nominations from the Membership of ASSAf but Members of Council and of the awards panel shall not be permitted themselves to nominate candidates.
- 2.9 The awards panel shall provide to the Council a list of not more than four highest regarded names for the "ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medal", and shall indicate its final choices for the medal. In its recommendation, the panel shall include a motivation based on the criteria for the evaluation of nominations, together with a full curriculum vitae of each of the listed candidates.

Nomination procedures

- 2.10 Nominations for the awards can be made by any Member of ASSAf (a nomination from outside the circle of ASSAf Members shall be channelled through a Member of ASSAf who supports it).
- 2.11 Nominations must contain a motivation relating to the criteria for the award and must be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae.
- 2.12 Nominees who are unsuccessful can be re-nominated. Nominations will not be carried over from year to year, however, re-nominations must be motivated in accordance with the 'Science and Society' criteria for selection as set out below.

Criteria for selection

2.13 The ASSAf gold medal links to the broader objectives of ASSAf and is not intended to replace or compete with other awards by academies, scholarly societies or other similar bodies in South Africa. The criteria for the "ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medal" shall be as follows:

- (a) An overarching criterion shall be the outstanding application of scientific or scholarly thinking in the service of society.
- (b) Scientific or scholarly achievements in each of the following dimensions shall be considered according to the objectives of ASSAf:
 - (i) using the common ground of scientific knowledge and activity to remove barriers between people and obstacles to full development of their intellectual capacity;
 - (ii) endeavouring in every possible way to inspire, promote and recognise excellence in scientific and technical practice in order to promote appropriate role models in society;
 - (iii) investigating and publicly reporting on various matters in order to promote and apply scientific thinking in the service of society;
 - (iv) promoting science education and a culture of science in the population at large;
 - (v) endeavouring to establish and develop close relations with scientific organisations in South Africa and with similar bodies in other countries; and
 - (vi) All areas of science and scholarly work shall be considered.
- (a) Candidates must have a science or scholarly base in South Africa (i.e. normally spending a major part of their time in South Africa) to be considered for nomination and award.
- (b) Awards shall only be made to individuals who are alive at the time of consideration by the Council, teams or groups as such cannot be nominated. Individuals can, however, be nominated for the role they have played in excellent research performed by a team or group.

Nature of awards

2.14 The awards shall take the form of a gold medal and a citation.