

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Building a Faculty Honorifics Strategy to Support the U-M Research Community

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Phase 1 of the Amplify Research Strategy

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U-M launches first phase of effort to amplify research, scholarship

By Alex Piazza

Office of the Vice President for Research

Topics: [Campus News](#), [Research](#)

As communities continue to grapple with significant societal challenges, University of Michigan researchers are seeking opportunities to amplify the impact of their discoveries and innovations to improve the quality of life for people across the state, nation and world.

To support their ongoing efforts, the university has launched the first phase of its new presidential strategy to bolster resources and personnel to help faculty achieve their research and scholarship goals in key strategic areas.



Overview

What are faculty (research) honorifics?

- Medals, prizes, and awards by **external** organizations; national academy and honorific society memberships
- Typically recognition of **completed work** and contributions to a field
- Highly variable **nomination** processes and strategies

Why do they matter to faculty?

- Faculty development and award ladders
- Can lead to opportunities for further impact, influence or research funding

Why do they matter to U-M?

- Reputation and influence
- Faculty retention and recruitment
- AAU rankings for honorifics & academies



NATIONAL
ACADEMIES

Sciences
Engineering
Medicine



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RESEARCH
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Mission and Strategies for Faculty Honorifics Office

Mission: Increase the **number, diversity, and quality** of honorifics nominations.



Create a **fair and equitable process** for public, **university-wide calls for nomination** to high-prestige, transdisciplinary, invited and/or limited submission honorifics.



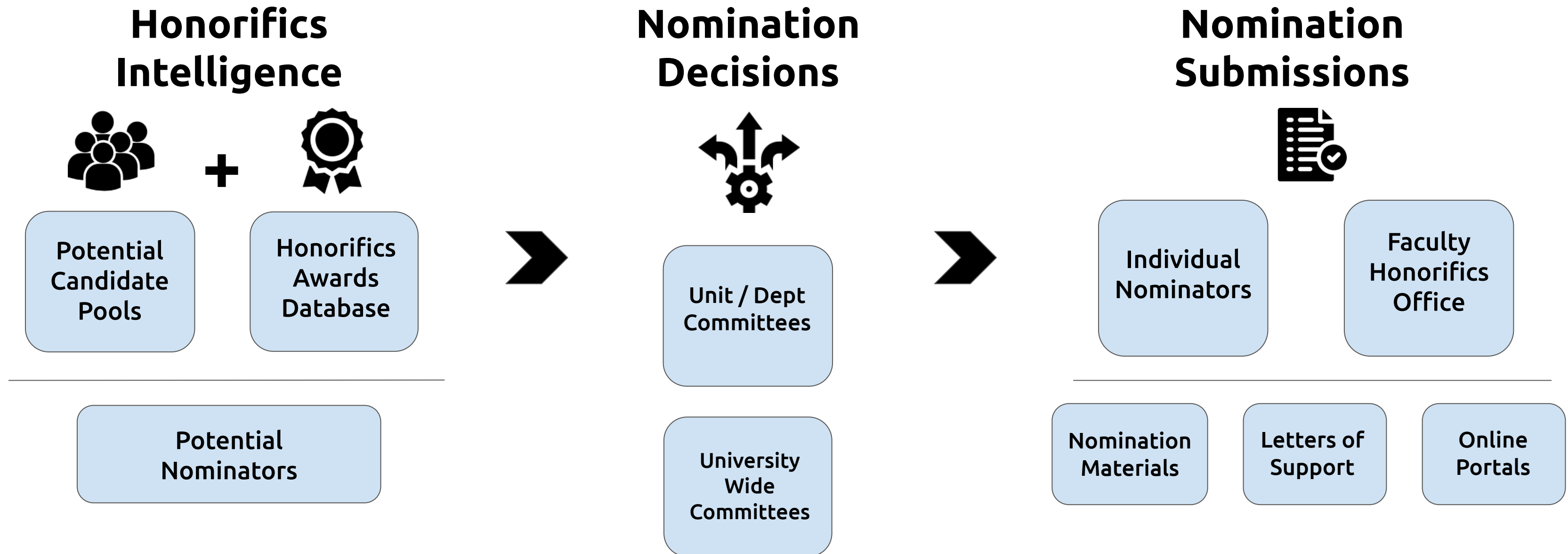
Leverage local unit expertise in units and departments with **better analytics and logistical support**. Convene a **community of practice** to share best practices.



Create a **searchable database** for honorific opportunities. **Track nominations** and outcomes to measure progress towards our goals.



Honorifics Nomination Process



Honorifics Database

<input type="checkbox"/> Hide fields Filter Group Sort ...							
	Award or Prize	Sponsor	Award Type	Link and/or more info	Field or Discipline	Description	Academic Career Le
187	Keoi Medical Science Prize	Keio University Medical Science Fund	Award/Prize/...	https://www.ms-fund.keio...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Keio Medical Science...	Mid-Career Late
188	King Faisal Prize in Medicine	King Faisal Foundation	Award/Prize/...	https://kingfaisalprize.org/	Medicine/Biomedical	Research works for which...	Mid-Career Late
189	Warren Alpert Foundation Prize	Warren Alpert Foundation Harvard Medical School	Award/Prize/...	https://warrenalpert.org/	Medicine/Biomedical	The Warren Alpert Found...	Any
190	Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science	Tang Prize Foundation	Award/Prize/...	https://www.tang-prize.or...	Medicine/Biomedical	Recognizes original bioph...	Late Career
191	Crafoord Prize in Polyarthritis	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Award/Prize/...	https://www.crafoordpriz...	Medicine/Biomedical	The prize in Polyarthritis i...	Any
192	InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize	InBev-Baillet Latour Fund	Award/Prize/...	https://www.fondsbailletla...	Medicine/Biomedical	The "Baillet Latour Biome...	Early Career
193	Robert Koch Award	Robert Koch Foundation	Award/Prize/...	https://www.robert-koch-...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Robert Koch Award is...	Mid-Career Late
194	Heineken Prize for Medicine	Alfred Heineken Fondsen Foundation	Award/Prize/...	https://www.heinekenpriz...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Dr A.H. Heineken Pri...	Mid-Career Late
195	Harvey Prize in Human Health	Technion	Award/Prize/...	https://harveypz.net.tech...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Harvey Prize is the m...	Any
196	Award for Distinguished Research in the ...	Association of American Medical Colleges	Award/Prize/...	https://www.aamc.org/wh...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Award for Distinguish...	Late Career
197	FASEB Excellence in Science Award - Ear...	Federation of American Societies for Experimental ...	Award/Prize/...	https://ffvp.memberclicks...	Medicine/Biomedical	Nominees will be evaluat...	Early Career
198	Sherman Prize	The Bruce and Cynthia Sherman Charitable Founda...	Award/Prize/...	https://shermanprize.org/	Medicine/Biomedical	Awarded to IBD clinicians,...	Mid-Career Late
199	Vilcek Prize - Creative Promise in Biome...	Vilcek Foundation	Award/Prize/...	https://vilcek.org/prizes/vi...	Medicine/Biomedical	For young, immigrant bio...	Early Career
200	GFA Carol J. Bland Phronesis Award	Association of American Medical Colleges	Award/Prize/...	https://www.aamc.org/pro...	Medicine/Biomedical	Nominees for the annual ...	Mid-Career Late
201	Nemmers - Mechthild Esser Nemmers Pr...	Northwestern University	Award/Prize/...	https://www.feinberg.nort...	Medicine/Biomedical	The \$350,000 Mechthild ...	Mid-Career Late
202	Brinker Awards For Scientific Distinction i...	Susan G. Komen	Award/Prize/...	https://www.komen.org/a...	Medicine/Biomedical	The Brinker Award for Sci...	Mid-Career Late
203	Lurie Prize in Biomedical Science	Foundation for the National Health Institutes	Award/Prize/...	https://fnih.org/our-progr...	Medicine/Biomedical	Now in its 11th year, the L...	Early Career Mid
204	FASEB Excellence in Science Award - Lif...	Federation of American Societies for Experimental ...	Award/Prize/...	https://ffvp.memberclicks...	Medicine/Biomedical	Nominees will be evaluat...	Late Career

Nomination Decision = Award + Candidate + Nominator

Initial Factors for Matching Awards & Candidates*

- Proposed award citation (qualitative match to previous recipients)
- U-M or external collaborators (for co-nomination or letters)
- Bibliographic or other impact metrics
- Previously won awards (internal, external)
- Elected societies/fellowships (NAM, NAS, AAAS, etc.)

*Each of these indicators is imprecise and must be taken in conversation with the other factors





l:l | fx AAA&S Membership prior to award? Y/N

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Award year	First	Last	Institution at time of award	Years PhD -> Award (Avg 39)	Award Citation	H-Index (Avg 155)	select notable prior awards pre-
4	2022	Richard	Hynes	MIT	51	For discoveries concerning the integrins, key mediators of cell-matrix and cell-cell adhesion in physiology and disease. Independently, Richard O. Hynes (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Erkki Ruoslahti (Sanford Burnham Prebys, La Jolla) identified a cell-surface-associated protein that helps affix cells to the surrounding material, the extracellular matrix (ECM). Then the researchers captured a receptor to which this protein binds. In seemingly unrelated studies, Timothy A. Springer (Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School) discovered transmembrane proteins that underlie the ability of immune cells to interact with their targets. These initially disparate lines of inquiry would converge and mushroom after the investigators realized that the proteins—now called integrins—belong to the same molecular family. Its members play central roles in an astounding array of processes in embryonic and fully formed organisms, and they offer intervention points for treating myriad diseases.	n/a	Guggenheim Fellow 1982; Canada Gairdner 1997; EB Wilson Medal 2007; David Rall Medal 2017
5		Erkki	Ruoslahti	Sanford Burnham Prebys	55		n/a	Japan Prize 2005; Canada Gairdner Foundation International Award 1997, Nobel Fellow 1995
6		Timothy	Springer	Harvard Medical School / Boston Children’s Hospital	46		192	Canada Gairdner 2019; Guggenheim 2004; Coley Award 2005; Crafoord Prize in Polyarthritis 2004,
7	2021	Karl	Deisseroth	Stanford University	23	For the discovery of light-sensitive microbial proteins that can activate or silence individual brain cells and for their use in developing optogenetics, a revolutionary technique for neuroscience. Dieter Oesterhelt (Emeritus, Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried) uncovered an archaeal protein that pumps protons out of cells when illuminated. Peter Hegemann (Humboldt University of Berlin) then found related channel proteins in single-celled algae. Karl Deisseroth (Stanford University) harnessed these molecules to create light-triggered systems that can be deployed in live, free-moving animals to decipher the role of specific classes of—and even individual—neurons within labyrinthine brain circuits. Hundreds of laboratories around the world are now using this approach, called optogenetics, to untangle the elaborate networks that underlie healthy physiology and neurological disease.	178	W. Alden Spencer Award (2011); Keio Medical Science Prize (2014); Albany Prize (2015); Dickson Prize in Medicine (2015); BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award (2015); Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences (2016); Massry Prize (2017); Kyoto Prize (2018); Eisenberg Prize (2018); Rumford Prize (2018); Warren Alpert Prize (2019); Heineken Prize (2020)
8	2019	Max	Cooper	Emory University School of Medicine	62	For discoveries that have launched the course of modern immunology. Max D. Cooper (Emory University School of Medicine) and Jacques Miller (Emeritus, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) identified two distinct classes of lymphocytes, B and T cells, a monumental achievement that provided the organizing principle of the adaptive immune system. This pioneering work has fueled a tremendous number of advances in basic and medical science, several of which have received previous recognition by Lasker Awards and Nobel Prizes, including those associated with monoclonal antibodies, generation of antibody diversity, MHC restriction for immune defense, antigen processing by dendritic cells, and checkpoint inhibition therapy for cancer.	135	AAI Lifetime Achievement Award 2000; Robert Koch Award 2010; Japan Prize 2018;
9	2018	C. David	Allis	The Rockefeller University	40	The 2018 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award honors two scientists for discoveries that have elucidated how gene expression is influenced by chemical modification of histones, the proteins that package DNA within chromosomes. Through tour-de-force genetic studies in yeast, Michael Grunstein (University of California, Los Angeles) demonstrated that histones dramatically influence gene activity within living cells and laid the groundwork for understanding the pivotal role of particular amino acids in this process. C. David Allis (Rockefeller University) uncovered an enzyme that attaches a specific chemical group to a particular amino acid in histones, and this histone-modifying enzyme turned out to be an established gene co-activator whose biochemical capabilities had eluded researchers. Grunstein and Allis unveiled a previously hidden layer of gene control and broke open a new field.	n/a	Dickson Prize , 2002; Massry Prize , 2003; Wiley Prize , 2004; Canada Gairdner International Award , 2007; ASMBM-Merick Award, 2008; Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award , 2011; Japan Prize , 2014; Breakthrough Prize , 2015; Gruber Genetics Prize , 2016
10		Michael	Grunstein	UCLA			n/a	2016 Gruber Genetics Prize (with David Allis); 2012 Thomson-Reuters Citation Laureate (with David Allis); 2011 Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research (with David Allis) 2007; 2003 Massry Prize

F:F | Award Citation

	A	B	C	H	I	J	M	N	O	P
	Award year	First	Last	select notable prior awards pre-	AAA&S Membership prior to award? Y/N	How many years pre-award was the AAA&S Membership granted? (Avg 18)	NAM Membership prior to award? Y/N	How many years pre-award was the NAM Membership granted? (Avg 14)	NAS Membership prior to award? Y/N	How many years pre-award was the NAS Membership granted? (Avg 14)
1										
4	2022	Richard	Hynes	Guggenheim Fellow 1982; Canada Gairdner 1997; EB Wilson Medal 2007; David Rall Medal 2017	Yes	28	Yes	27	Yes	26
5		Erkki	Ruoslahti	Japan Prize 2005; Canada Gairdner Foundation International Award 1997, Nobel Fellow 1995	Yes	29	Yes	20	Yes	23
6		Timothy	Springer	Canada Gairdner 2019; Guggenheim 2004; Coley Award 2005; Crafoord Prize in Polyarthritis 2004,	Yes	21	No		Yes	26
7	2021	Karl	Deisseroth	W. Alden Spencer Award (2011); Keio Medical Science Prize (2014); Albany Prize (2015); Dickson Prize in Medicine (2015); BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award (2015); Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences (2016); Massry Prize (2017); Kyoto Prize (2018); Eisenberg Prize (2018); Rumford Prize (2018); Warren Alpert Prize (2019); Heineken Prize (2020)	No		Yes	11	Yes	9
8	2019	Max	Cooper	AAI Lifetime Achievement Award 2000; Robert Koch Award 2010; Japan Prize 2018;	Yes	27	Yes	29	Yes	31
9	2018	C. David	Allis	Dickson Prize , 2002; Massry Prize , 2003; Wiley Prize , 2004; Canada Gairdner International Award , 2007; ASMBM-Merick Award, 2008; Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award , 2011; Japan Prize , 2014; Breakthrough Prize , 2015; Gruber Genetics Prize , 2016	Yes	17	No		No	
10		Michael	Grunstein	2016 Gruber Genetics Prize (with David Allis); 2012 Thomson-Reuters Citation Laureate (with David Allis); 2011 Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research (with David Allis) 2007; 2003 Massry Prize	Yes	17	No		Yes	10

Nomination Submissions Process

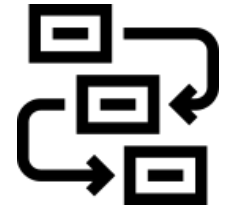
Typical Components of a Nominations Package*

- 50-100 word citation capturing the researcher/team's signature accomplishment(s) worthy of the award
- Research or biographical narrative (500-1500 words)
- CV or biosketch
- Selected list of most important publications (10-25)
- Nomination letter (typically from the dean, chair, senior colleague in field, or university leadership)
- 2-4 additional letters of support (often external to U-M)

*once we've generated a packet, it is only 15-20% extra effort to edit this for another award nomination



Best Practices



If you don't already have one, create an awards nomination process that works for your unit.



Set unit / departmental goals for elected society memberships and disciplinary awards.



Include honorific nominations in faculty development conversations.



Notify the Faculty Honorifics Office about major milestones like research breakthroughs, FDA approvals, or awards news.



Think about who is not being nominated for awards, but should be.



Questions for discussion



What feedback do you have about the strategies or indicators presented today to match awards with top faculty?



Does your unit have an awards committee that nominates faculty for external honorifics?



How can the Faculty Honorifics Office best collaborate with you to identify and nominate candidates from your department or unit?

