



USC University of Southern California

USC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Call For Nominations

Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship

FUNDING ORGANIZATION

USC Research and Innovation (R&I)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

5 PM Pacific Time on September 25 Annually. Nominations submitted after this deadline will be rejected without review. When a due date falls on a weekend, federal holiday, or when USC offices are closed due to weather or other circumstances, the application deadline is automatically extended to the next business day.

NOMINATION REVIEW

October – November

AWARD NOTIFICATION

December

FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$3,400

ANTICIPATED AWARDS

2

BACKGROUND

The USC Associates Awards are the highest honors the university can bestow on its members for their distinguished achievements.

Creativity in research may stem from a single brilliant idea or from a significant body of work that forms a coherent whole, and may have significant impact on a field of scholarship, at the interface of disciplines, or create viable new areas of scholarly activity.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Nominations should include the following elements:

- Nomination letter: not to exceed 3 pages, including the nominee's:
 - a. *Name, title, and USC office address.*
 - b. *Accomplishments and lifetime achievements. Explain succinctly why the nominee's contributions are exceptional.*
 - c. *Specific accomplishments at USC.*
 - d. *Record of scholarship. Provide a detailed description of the nominee's scholarship.*
- Nominee Curriculum Vitae: not to exceed 10 pages, including education, professional experience, publications and/or artistic products, and current funding (as applicable).
- Bibliography listing no more than twelve (12) of the nominee's most significant publications, providing hyperlinks, if available.

- Two letters of support. Support letters must be written by recognized scholars outside of USC, from highly ranked institutions. Nominations will be evaluated by a committee of distinguished faculty.
- A Brief Citation (200-250 words) highlighting the nominee’s scholarly, creative, and personal accomplishments. Samples can be found on pages 4-6 of this call. Some key points for considerations:
 - a. *A succinct, high-level summary of the nominee’s major achievements or standing within a particular field. If the honoree is a student, this may include awards, scholarships, and relevant extracurricular activities or volunteer work.*
 - b. *A description of the nominee’s work that would make sense to a person with no technical knowledge in the field.*
 - c. *A statement about the significance and broader impact of the work being recognized.*
 - d. *Stories or human-interest items that help convey a sense of the nominee as a person.*

NOMINATION REVIEW

Nominations will be evaluated by a committee of distinguished faculty. Nominations must demonstrate that the nominees are recognized by their peers as the top few scholars in the world within a field of research with broad significance, based on a lifetime of scholarship. They must also demonstrate that their research, conducted as faculty at USC, has had significant impact, through high honors and citations, and that they have also contributed to the research culture at USC.

ELIGIBILITY

Self-nominations and Student/Staff nominations are not accepted. Nominators must be faculty members at USC.

Nominees must be full professors who have been at USC for a minimum of five years. Tenure track and non-tenure track (NTT) full research professors are eligible; outstanding NTT faculty who make extraordinary contributions to the educational experience of students should be nominated to the [Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching](#).

Nominations will be considered for a period of three years (unless withdrawn by the nominating department).

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit your proposal application utilizing the RII application submission and reporting portal. Go to <https://rii.usc.edu/funding/oor-portal/> to log in or create an account using your USC email address.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information or inquiries, please send an email to rii@usc.edu with “Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship” in the subject line.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nomination letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee Curriculum Vitae | |

Two letters of support Letter(s) of Support

Brief Citation (200-250 words)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1: My nominee was not selected last cycle; can I nominate him/her again?

A1: Nominations will be considered for a period of three years (unless withdrawn by the nominating department).

Q2: My nominee was not selected for award last year, can I send updated materials for this cycle?

A2: Yes, please provide the updated materials to RII@usc.edu.

Q3: Who can nominate?

A3: Self-nominations and Student/Staff nominations are not accepted. Nominators must be faculty members at USC.

Q4: Are there samples of the citation?

A4: Yes, please see pages 4-6 of this call for samples.

Arie Kapteyn

*Professor (Research) of Economics
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

A brilliant and inventive scholar of economics, Arie Kapteyn continues to propel social sciences to new heights at USC and beyond. His expertise spans multiple fields, as he is the foremost expert in probability-based internet panels, an innovator in measuring individual welfare, and an international leader in the economics of decision-making related to retirement. His research on the economics of happiness and well-being continues to guide scholars and policymakers everywhere.

Professor Kapteyn broke new ground starting with his doctoral thesis in 1977, which found that what makes people happier is not only their level of income, but also whether they perceive themselves as being better off compared to others. More recently, he has conducted original research on the relationship between retirement and psychological well-being, as well as the factors that influence subjective well-being across countries and within communities.

Professor Kapteyn also has a gift for leading and managing researchers. He has built three tremendously successful research centers, including the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research, which he founded in 2012. Under his direction, the center's Understanding America Study (UAS) internet survey panel has become a gold standard. UAS data has been cited in nearly 300 papers published in peer-reviewed academic journals, and the study's Daybreak Poll is regularly referenced by the mainstream press, especially during national election cycles.

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For his inspiring and creative academic leadership, and for his extensive contributions to economics research and policy, the University of Southern California is pleased to recognize Arie Kapteyn with the USC Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship.

Steve A. Kay

*University and Provost Professor of Neurology,
Biomedical Engineering, and Quantitative Computational Biology
Keck School of Medicine of USC*

One of the world's leading experts in circadian rhythms, Steve A. Kay combines genetics, genomics, and chemical biology to understand how our circadian clocks regulate physiology, metabolism, and behavior. His groundbreaking work has deepened our understanding of the ways organisms adapt to our diurnal world, such as in the daily regulation of the body's metabolism or in the seasonal flowering of plants. His work on mechanisms of circadian clocks pushes the frontiers of agricultural biotechnology and drives the discovery of new medical treatments.

For more than two decades, Professor Kay has made a continuous and wide-ranging series of pioneering contributions to circadian biology in plants, animals, and humans. He and his colleagues identified the first genes regulating circadian rhythms in plants by using a light-emitting enzyme found in fireflies—an example of his innovative laboratory techniques. His key discoveries include the identification of many “clock” genes found in both plants and animals, and his breakthrough efforts to map their circuitry has created novel experimental cancer therapeutics, as well as strategies to make crops more resistant to climate change.

A renowned academic, scientific leader, and serial entrepreneur, Professor Kay has served as dean of the USC Dornsife College and as president of the Scripps Research Institute. He is also the founding director of the USC MESH Academy, which fosters interdisciplinary collaboration to tackle challenges in human health and disease.

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For the far-reaching influence of his technical innovations, and for his many landmark discoveries in circadian biology, the University of Southern California proudly recognizes Steve A. Kay with the USC Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship.

Shang-Hua Teng

University Professor

*Seeley G. Mudd Professor of Engineering Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics USC
Viterbi School of Engineering
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

Renowned for his contributions to the field of algorithm design and analysis, Shang-Hua Teng stands among the world's most influential computer scientists. He has twice won the prestigious Gödel Prize in theoretical computer science, first for developing smoothed analysis – a milestone in explaining the behavior of algorithms in practice – and later for designing groundbreaking scalable algorithms for network systems. Both of these accomplishments highlight his ability to draw on real data to establish insightful connections between theory and practice.

Both students and colleagues admire Professor Teng for his creativity. The influence of his work is far-reaching, and extends to realms beyond science and technology. His efforts to bridge mathematical research with the realities of modern learning environments have particularly benefited students – as seen in his work with mathematical board games, and his interest in the impact of bilingual education.

Professor Teng has touched lives across USC as an alumnus, a mentor, and a University Professor – becoming the first USC graduate to earn that distinction. His teaching and research have encouraged others to apply theoretical thinking in solving real-world problems. In an era of ever-increasing volumes of data, his interdisciplinary expertise inspires many to tackle the most complex of technological challenges – and to make our world a better place.

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For his transformative work in algorithm design, and for his many enduring contributions to science and technology, the University of Southern California is pleased to honor Shang-Hua Teng with the USC Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship.