# SIB AWARDS
## TERMS & CONDITIONS

The SIB Bioinformatics Awards honour excellence in three categories:
1. Early Career Award
2. Swiss Graduate Paper Award
3. Innovative Resource Award

# Awards Guidelines

- Candidates may only submit in <u>one</u> category.
- Candidates need to point out if they had major contributions to an application submitted in another category.
- Submission deadlines are final. No extensions to the deadlines will be granted in any case.
- There must be a minimum of four submissions for a category to proceed.
- Each award category will be juried by a group of at least 5 jurors. The jurors will be chosen for their demonstrated knowledge and expertise in their fields and for their impartiality.

# General Conditions

## 1. Early Career Award

### 1.1 Terms and conditions

The award recognizes the excellence and promise of a researcher's early career based on a project that has been carried out, or a paper has been published in the field of bioinformatics or computational biology.

The award is open to any graduate student or researcher whose PhD was completed during the six years preceding the closing date for applications, and who has carried out a research project in bioinformatics or computational biology (hereinafter "the Candidate").

### 1.2. Application requirements

Applications may be submitted by:
- the Candidates themselves,
- or any professor working in the field of bioinformatics or computational biology.

Applications must include the following components:
1) Major research achievements:

This document must be submitted in <u>one document</u> and have the following file name "1_Researchachievements_CanditateName". The document should be structured as specified below:
- a short statement on the Candidate's research interest(s) (past/current/future directions, one page);

- a short summary of the current project(s) the Candidate is working on (one to two pages) describing specific contribution and the overall impact of the work;
- a list with the five most important publications published by the Candidate throughout the career. Each of the five publications should be described with a short statement on:
    - the publication's findings and impact (5-10 sentences)
    - the Candidate's contribution to the publication (fewer than five publications are no problem if the candidate has not that many);
- if applicable: a short statement on the Candidate's extracurricular activities such as involvement in teaching, supervision, participation in conferences as organizer/session chair or similar, outreach or other science-related activities the Candidate has been / is participating in next to the Research projects;
- a letter of support from the project/PhD supervisor, Head of Department or equivalent.

2) A CV including a list of all publications. This document must be submitted in <u>one document</u> and have the following file name "2_CV_CandidateName".

3) Applications can include the following optional component:
- PhD or Master thesis. Please use the following file name "3_Phd/MasterThesis_CandidateName"

The major research achievements, the CV and the PhD/Master thesis (optional) of each applicant are used to assess the following criteria:

- **Eligibility** of the applicant for the Award.
- **Scientific qualifications** of the applicant based on past achievements.
- Ability of the applicant to conduct **original research of high scientific quality and impact under his/her own responsibility**.

All application materials must be submitted in English. Documents must be submitted in PDF format only and the maximum size of the files is 20MB.

### 1.3. Selection criteria

The jury will base its selection criteria solely on the scientific excellence of the Candidate in the field of bioinformatics and/or computational biology (see section 4. "Excellence Criteria")

### 1.4. Jury

An international jury of high-ranked experts will review the applications and designate the award laureate (hereinafter "the Laureate"). The jury is autonomous and can decide not to attribute the award. The jury's decisions are final and without appeal.

### 1.5. Award

The award carries a cash prize of CHF 10,000, an award certificate, and travel expenses for the Laureate to attend the award ceremony. The usage of the prize money is unconditional.

The Laureate will be announced during the award ceremony. The Laureate will be invited to give a plenary talk about the project during the ceremony and is therefore expected to attend it.

## 2. Swiss Graduate Paper Award

### 2.1. Terms and conditions

The award recognizes a paper in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology, which has been published or accepted for publication in a refereed journal at the closing date for applications (hereinafter "the Paper"). The paper must be published by a scientist currently carrying out a PhD or who obtained a PhD degree during the two years preceding the closing date for applications (hereinafter "the Candidate"). The Candidate must have studied in Switzerland for at least six months during the PhD. In the event that the Candidate is not the first author of the Paper, personal contributions should be detailed in the application.

### 2.2. Application requirements

Applications may be submitted by:
- a SIB Group Leader;
- a faculty member of the Swiss university association;
- or the Candidate.

Applications must include the following components:
1. the Paper (file name should be "1_Paper_CanditateName");
2. a letter of recommendation of the PhD supervisor, or the last or corresponding author of the Paper, which indicates the contribution of the candidate (with file name "2_RecommendationLetter_CandidateName");
3. a CV including the list of all publications (with file name "3_CV_CandidateName");
4. for Candidates currently not working/studying in Switzerland: a proof that the Candidate studied in Switzerland for at least six months during the PhD.

All application materials must be submitted in English. Documents must be submitted in PDF format only and the maximum size of the files is 20MB.

### 2.3. Selection process and excellence criteria

The jury will base its selection criteria solely on the scientific excellence of the Candidate in the field of bioinformatics and/or computational biology (see section 4 "Excellence Criteria).

### 2.4. Jury

A jury composed of high-ranked Swiss experts and past laureates will review the applications and designate the award laureate (hereinafter "the Laureate"). The jury is autonomous and can decide not to attribute the award. The jury's decisions are final and without appeal.

### 2.5. Award

The award carries a cash prize of CHF 5,000, an award certificate, and travel expenses for the Laureate to attend the award ceremony. The usage of the prize money is unconditional.
The Laureate will be announced during the award ceremony. The Laureate will be invited to give a plenary talk during the ceremony and is therefore expected to attend it.

## 3. Innovative Resource Award

### 3.1. Terms and Conditions

The award recognizes a bioinformatics resource (database, infrastructure, code-base, analysis framework, visualization tool, etc.) that is breaking new conceptual and/or technical ground (hereinafter "the Resource"). The award is open worldwide to any new bioinformatics resource or any major new release of a resource that is available online and that was formally published for the first time during the five years preceding the closing date for applications.

### 3.2. Application requirements

Applications may be submitted by:
- a professor (user of the resource);
- the Principal Investigator of the resource;
- or a team member of the resource.

Applications must include the following components:
1. a publication on the resource;
2. a two to five-page summary describing the resource (including a valid link to its homepage, Git repository or similar), its scientific impact and usability (incl. approximate statistics on number of users, downloads, queries, number of publications citing the resource, manual);
3. a short statement on how the resource will be maintained over the coming years and how the Award's cash prize will benefit the resource (one page);
4. the name and contact details of the Principal Investigator of the resource.

All application materials must be submitted in English in one PDF document (maximum size is 20MB) and have the following file name: "CandidateName_ResourceName". Please make sure to clearly separate the different components listed above (1. Publication on the Resource, 2. Summary, 3. Maintenance Plan, 4. Contact details of PI).

### 3.3. Selection Criteria

The resource should demonstrate excellence in bioinformatics and computational biology and have an important impact on the life science community or show clear potential to have such an impact (see section 4 "Excellence Criteria").

### 3.4. Jury

An international jury of high-ranked experts will review the applications and designate the winning resource (hereinafter "the Laureate"). The jury is autonomous and can decide not to attribute the award. The jury's decisions are final and without appeal.

### 3.5. Award

The award carries a cash prize of CHF 10,000, an award certificate, and travel expenses for the team member to attend the award ceremony. The cash prize is given to the Principal Investigator but is to support the entire team involved in the bioinformatics resource and should be used for the benefit of the resource and its further development.

The Laureate will be announced during the award ceremony. The Principal Investigator of the resource or one team member designated by the Principal Investigator will be invited to present the resource and its scientific background during the ceremony and is therefore expected to attend it.

## 4. Excellence criteria

The Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics fosters excellence in bioinformatics and computational biology. Excellence in bioinformatics and computational biology encompasses multiple dimensions, including academic rigor, breakthrough character, sustainability, usability (for software and resources), and overall contribution to the field of bioinformatics/computational biology.

The SIB Award judges abide by the DORA principles in not using journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles.

The SIB Award judges strive to overcome unconscious biases, such as those associated with gender, minorities, affiliation, or subfields.

Collaborative and interdisciplinary work can also qualify provided the bioinformatics and/or computational biology aspects meet the excellence criteria outlined above.

## 5. Timeline and closing date for applications

### 5.1 Call for entries

- Early Career Award: 1 November 2022.
- Swiss Graduate Paper Award: 1 November 2022.
- Innovative Resource Award: 1 December 2022.

### 5.2 Closing date for entries

- Early Career Award: 31 January 2023, 18:00 CET.
- Swiss Graduate Paper Award: 31 January 2023, 18:00 CET.
- Innovative Resource Award: 28 February 2023, 18:00 CET.

**Important note:** Submission deadlines are final. No extensions to the deadlines will be granted in any case.

### 5.3 Confidential announcement to the Laureate

- Early Career Award: 1 June 2023.
- Swiss Graduate Paper Award: 1 June 2023.
- Innovative Resource Award: 1 June 2023.

**5.4 Awards presentation**

- 12 September 2023 during [BC]² Basel Computational Biology Conference, which will take place in Basel, Switzerland.

SIB reserves the right to shorten, extend, amend or cancel one (or more) SIB Bioinformatics Award(s) as the circumstances may require or in the event of a "force majeure".

# 6. Address

Applications have to be submitted online via the application-tool of the SIB website.

# 7. Data protection

The Applicant accepts that his/her personal data may be retained by SIB and used for SIB's own communication or organizational purposes.

# 8. Governing law

These General Conditions are interpreted in accordance with and governed by Swiss law.