

The Stephen Smale Prize



The [Society for the Foundations of Computational Mathematics](#) was created in the summer of 1995, following the month-long meeting in Park City, Utah, which was principally organized by [Steve Smale](#). The Park City meeting aimed, in Smale's words from the preliminary announcement, "...to strengthen the unity of mathematics and numerical analysis, and to narrow the gap between pure and applied mathematics." Smale's vision has been the Society's inspiration these past 15 years. During this period the journal *Foundations of Computational Mathematics* was created, several colloquia and research semesters were organized and six international conferences were held in what has become a triennial series. The [Budapest meeting](#) in 2011 will be the seventh.

After fifteen years of existence, with an established and recognized position in the scientific community, the Society has created the "Stephen Smale Prize" whose objective is to recognize the work of a young mathematician in the areas at the heart of the society's interests and to help to promote his or her integration among the leaders of the scientific community. The first Stephen Smale Prize will be awarded at the Budapest meeting.

Prize Rules

1. The goal of the Smale Prize is to recognize major achievements in furthering the understanding of the connections between mathematics and computation, including the interfaces between pure and applied mathematics, numerical analysis and computer science.
2. It will be awarded at the meeting of the Society for the Foundations of Computational Mathematics (FoCM). Since these meetings are held

approximately every three years, this approximate length will therefore apply for the separation between consecutive awards of the prize.

3. Occasionally, there may be two recipients of the prize but not more than two.
4. To be eligible for the prize a candidate must be in his or her early to mid career, meaning, typically, removed by at most 10 years of his/her (first) doctoral degree by the last day of the meeting. Allowances might be made for atypical life circumstances. The judgment of the committee as to eligibility will be final.
5. Eligible candidates should be nominated (self-nominations excluded) by sending an email to the secretary of FoCM¹. The period for nominations closes nine months before the first day of the meeting. That is, if the meeting begins say, a 4th of July, the nomination period closes at midnight of October 3rd (GMT) of the previous year. Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief case for support.
6. There is no compulsory format for the nomination but it should include at least three letters of recommendation.
7. The recipient of the prize will be selected, among the nominated candidates, by a committee created for this task. This committee will be proposed to the Board of Directors, after the closing of the nomination period, by the chair of the society, who will also serve as chair of the committee itself. It should consist of between 5 and 8 persons representing, as well as possible, the variety of subjects covered in the area of Foundations of Computational Mathematics. At least a third of the committee members should not have served as such in previous awards of the prize and no person can serve as a member more than thrice.
8. The committee will be the sole authority on the compliance of candidates with the conditions of the prize.
9. The recipient of the prize will be expected to give a lecture at the meeting. A written version of this lecture (tagged as the Smale Prize Lecture) will be included in the volume of plenary talks.

¹For 2011 to: Hans Munthe-Kaas, hans@math.uib.no, deadline October 3, 2010.