

**Indiana University School of Medicine
Committee Report Template**

Please submit this report to Rebekah Bredenbeck at rdbreden@iu.edu

Committee Name: Awards Committee

Committee Chair Name: Travis Jerde

Committee Chair Email: tjjerde@iupui.edu

Meeting Frequency: Twice per year, or as needed if internal awards require selection.

What is the mission of your committee? (100 words)

The mission of The Awards Committee is to honor two internationally-renowned researchers by selecting them as recipients of our two most distinguished IUSM awards: the Steven C. Beering Award for Advancement of Biomedical Science, and the Mark Brothers Award. The awards committee is also responsible for identifying any external awards that our School of Medicine faculty may be viable candidates for honor, including national awards (such as Howard Hughes, Burroughs Wellcome), as well as local awards (such as IBJ Awards, Indianapolis Monthly, local organizations). The committee conducts a selection process to select our IUSM nominees in those applications in which there is a restriction in the number of candidates that can be nominated per institution.

What has your committee accomplished this year? (250 words)

The Awards Committee solicited nominations, reviewed and rated applications, and selected winners for the 2018 Steven C. Beering Award and the 2018 Mark Brothers Award. The committee received 9 nominations for the Mark Brothers Award. The committee selected Feng Zhang, PhD of Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the winner. Dr. Zhang will visit IUSM for 2 days, August 28, 29, and his visit will be hosted and organized by Dr. Charlie Dong.

The committee received 12 nominations for the Steven C. Beering award. The committee selected Dr. George Church, PhD from Harvard Medical School as the winner. Dr. Church is a leading researcher in the area of genetic engineering, and has developed the Multiplex sequencing method of DNA, and other critical methodologies of DNA sequencing. His recent neuroscience work includes techniques used to develop a functional connectome, as well as wireless, minimally invasive methods to detect and manipulate neuronal activity. He has published over 400 publications, including very recent major work in Nature and Science, has won numerous esteemed awards, and is considered by many to be on a list of future Nobel laureates.

Dr. Church is expected to visit IUSM in November 2018 and will be asked to give 2 lectures to the scientific community in addition to meeting with faculty and trainees. His award lecture will be to the open scientific community at IUSM, while his second seminar will be directed primarily to trainees. In addition, Dr. Church will participate in a round table discussion with IUSM faculty during his visit. Dr. Church receives \$25,000 for his award and efforts, and his outstanding contribution to research.

What goals does your committee have for the next academic year? How can the Faculty Steering Committee help you to accomplish those goals? (150 words)

Next academic year the awards committee will continue to solicit nominations and evaluate applications for the universities two most prestigious awards: the Mark Brothers award and the Stephen C. Beering award. As funds expand from these endowments, we will strive to enhance IUSM's international profile with special emphasis on international scholars. In the past several years, no internal awards required evaluation or selection from the awards committee, but if such an award requires our input this year, we will gladly serve in that capacity.

The evaluation process and selection of the speakers for the Brothers and Beering awards is straightforward and efficient as currently run. Advertising the presentations and the visit of these distinguished guests by IUSM has been suboptimal, however. It would be very helpful for the mission of the awards committee, and for the whole of IUSM, for us to show optimal interest in the work of these excellent researchers, and to optimize the attendance at these events. Finally, if any further situation should arise where additional input is needed, the Awards Committee Chair will present the situation to the FSC to seek advice.