

Nominate your Colleagues for TMS Awards and Treat Yourself to a TMS Life Membership

Kevin Hemker, 2018 TMS President



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I vividly recall my first graduation ceremony at Johns Hopkins University. During the faculty procession I was paired with one of our most prestigious medical school faculty, a man widely regarded as the father of medical genetics. As we entered into the tent filled with joyful students and their parents he smiled at me and said, “You can tell a lot about a society by the way it celebrates its successes.”

To this day, I am not sure that I fully comprehend the depth of his statement, but I love the sentiment and have never forgotten his words. I think it means we should pursue our passions with gusto and pause once in a while to appreciate and celebrate what we have achieved. The memory of that encounter has compelled me to attend more than two dozen graduation ceremonies and to fete my students and my sons when they reach personal milestones. I am writing today to encourage you, valued members of the TMS community, to do the same.

Each year at the Annual Meeting & Exhibition, TMS bestows a variety of awards and pauses to fete its members and celebrate their successes. You might assume that TMS award recipients are senior sages with a lifetime of accomplishments, and in some cases, you would be right. But in recent years the TMS Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees have worked hard to create and fund awards at all levels of membership. TMS now confers more than 85 Society, Division, Young Professional, and Student Awards in total. In addition to our pinnacle awards and the distinction of being named TMS Fellow, the Society now offers the Brimacombe Medal for mid-career materials practitioners, the Julia and Johannes Weertman Educator Award, the Application to Practice Award, the Frank Crossley and Ellen Swallow Richards Diversity Awards, and many more.

The 2018 TMS Strategic Plan states that TMS seeks to be a highly inclusive Society where all members can aspire to the full suite of honors, awards, engagement, and leadership opportunities that the Society has to offer. The awards process starts with nominations, and TMS awards recipients can only truly represent the full breadth of our membership if nominations come from across the full spectrum of our members.

I am writing to ask for your help. **Award nominations are due on April 1, 2019**, and once submitted most are active for three years. Over the next month or so, I invite you to visit the full list of TMS awards at awards.tms.org and consider nominating a student, direct report, colleague, friend, or mentor for a TMS award.

While I have your attention, may I also suggest that you reward yourself with a TMS lifetime membership? Over the past year, countless people have shared with me that TMS is their home Society, but only a small fraction of current TMS members are aware that TMS offers a lifetime membership. By signing up for a lifetime membership and paying a one-time fee of \$1,800 you can avoid the need for annual renewals and know that you will be a TMS member for the rest of your life. Financially this is a slam dunk for anyone below 50 years old, but the greatest benefit comes from the bonds that this creates within the TMS community. Please consider rewarding yourself with a TMS lifetime membership by visiting www.tms.org/Membership today.

The statement that, “You can tell a lot about a society by the way it celebrates its successes” is as true today as it was when I first heard it. I hope that you will agree that TMS has much to celebrate and that you will help us fete a TMS member by nominating them for an award this year.

