

## **Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture**

The Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar (WBM) Prize Lecture is given annually by a practising historian, philosopher or scientist. The subject matter for the lecture is some aspect of the history of science, in recognition of John Wilkins FRS, the first Secretary of the Society; the social function of science, as per the Bernal Lecture Fund endowed by John Desmond Bernal FRS; and/or the philosophy of science or some other field of interest to Peter Medawar FRS.

### **Criteria, Terms and Conditions**

1. The WBM Lecture was established in 2007 by combining the 3 individual Wilkins (1948-2006), Bernal (1971-2006) and Medawar (1986-2006) lectures.
2. Today the Royal Society WBM Prize Lecture is given for excellence in the history, philosophy or social impact of science.
3. The prize is awarded annually, unless in the judgement of the Library Committee and/or Public Engagement Committee, no suitable candidate has been nominated.
  - a. The nominations are to be reviewed by the Library Committee, who will make their recommendation to the Public Engagement Committee for approval, before it is passed to the Awards Committee.
4. Recipients must be regarded by their peers as reputable historians or philosophers (or scientist or engineer who has contributed significantly to the history/philosophy of science) but are not required to be Fellows of the Royal Society. The prize is not open to those who are members of the Council of the Royal Society at the time the award is decided, nor to members of the Library or Public Engagement Committees at such time the recommendation is made to the Council.
5. The nomination of a candidate is made by a nominator (which may be an individual or an institution; also not required to be a Fellow) digitally on Flexi-Grant and should include the names and contact details of two referees who can speak to the excellence of the candidate. Nominators should make nominees aware of their nomination. Self-nomination is not acceptable.
6. A nomination remains valid for three years; under exceptional circumstances the Committee may decide that a nomination can remain valid for a fourth year. An unsuccessful candidate may be re-nominated after a gap of one year. Previous winners may not be nominated again.

7. The specific topic presented and the research area of the nominee can be historical, philosophical and/or the social impact of any science or technical discipline within the remit of the Royal Society i.e. the natural sciences, including mathematics, engineering science, agriculture and medical research, the scientific aspects of archaeology, geography, and experimental psychology.
8. Teams are not normally considered except where each member has made an individual and clearly identifiable contribution.
9. The award is open to citizens of the British Isles or a Commonwealth country, or those who have been ordinarily resident and working in the British Isles or a Commonwealth country for a minimum of three years immediately prior to being nominated.
10. The Award is a bronze medal and a gift of £2000. The winner is called upon to give a presentation at a venue to be specified by the Society. This should be a high-quality presentation of important historical or philosophical research aimed at a non-specialist audience, and it should normally not have been given before.