

2024 Franzosini Prize and Balarew Award—Call for Nominations

In 1989 the Subcommittee on Solubility Equilibrium Data (SSED) inaugurated the Franzosini Award to assist a promising young contributor to the Solubility Data Project. In 2023 the Franzosini Award was renamed the Franzosini Prize and elevated to an award in recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions to the field of critical evaluation of data in solubility and related chemical equilibria. At the same time the Balarew Award was inaugurated to recognize an Outstanding Young Scientist working in the field of critical evaluation of solubility and/or related chemical equilibria.

Franzosini Prize Announcement

Nominations are invited for the Franzosini Prize, awarded in recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions to the field of critical evaluation of data in solubility and related chemical equilibria. The application can only be made by a sponsor(s). Each nomination form should be completed online and accompanied by a letter of support providing a brief statement of the nominee's achievements supporting their nomination, including a list of recent publications.

Winners of the Franzosini Prize will be announced during the International Symposium on Solubility and Related Equilibrium Processes (ISSP), in Novi Sad, Serbia, 9-13 September 2024. Each will give a research presentation during the ISSP. A brief description of their work will be published in *Chemistry International* and on the IUPAC website.

Balarew Award Announcement

Nominations are invited for the Balarew Award for an Outstanding Young Scientist working in the field of critical evaluation of solubility and/or related chemical equilibria. The application can only be made by a sponsor(s). Each nomination should be completed online and accompanied by a letter of support providing a brief statement of the nominee's achievements, supporting their nomination, including a list of recent publications.

Winner of the 2024 Balarew Award for Outstanding Young Scientists will be announced during the International Symposium on Solubility and Related Equilibrium Processes (ISSP). The winner will also give a research presentation during the ISSP. A brief description of the work developed by the awardee will be published in *Chemistry International* and on the IUPAC website.

The Nominations deadline for the Franzosini Prize

and the Balarew Award is **31 May 2024**. Self nominations are not accepted.

For details, see <https://iupac.org/2024-franzosini-prize-and-balarew-award-call-for-nominations/>

InChI Changing Pace

The InChI Trust announces 2024 to be a year of transition for the International Chemical Identifier (InChI), which is already showing noticeable delivery.

In 2021-2023, the InChI Trust decided to significantly invest in creating additional roles for outreach and technical direction—spending from its reserves to accelerate InChI development and transition this to a more open and transparent model. This was followed by the sad passing of Igor Pletnev, the primary developer, in late 2021. Since then, much progress has been made transitioning the existing code to a GitHub environment, developing additional understanding of the code, fixing bugs and creating testing protocols that build on previous practice. This work has taken place at RWTH Aachen, supported by the NFDI4Chem project and the Volkswagen Foundation. The next “new” version of InChI—rebuilding the current version 1.06, cleaned-up and with additional bugfixes, is in testing and will be available for the IUPAC InChI Subcommittee and CPCDS to approve soon. The code now lives on GitHub; the Trust is also working through the governance needed for this new development model aligned with IUPAC.

In parallel, much has been achieved by the Working Groups and the IUPAC InChI Subcommittee in agreeing on the scientific requirements for extensions of the standard, and for implementation investigations to inform our technical roadmap.

The roadmap below covers both extensions to core InChI, and to InChI applications (RInChI (R for Reactions), MInChI (M for Mixtures), the web demo, and the resolver). Additional Working Groups are still considering their requirements.

In addition to the development resource at RWTH Aachen, the InChI projects will also be supported by cheminformatics expertise from a new position at the Beilstein Institute. The InChI Trust is very grateful for this in-kind support from these organisations, and partnerships such as these are a fantastic way to achieve step-changes in speed of delivery, building on the core financial support from the Trust's members, and input from IUPAC's expert volunteers.