



AAALAC International Bennett J. Cohen Award

Criteria & Nomination Guidelines

The first AAALAC International Bennett J. Cohen Award was presented in 1990. The award is named in honor of the late Bennett J. Cohen. Dr. Cohen was a visionary in the field of laboratory animal science. He was instrumental in founding several well-known laboratory animal science organizations including AAALAC, AALAS, and ACLAM, and was an ardent friend of the animal research and life sciences community. Dr. Cohen was a steadfast supporter of AAALAC International and the accreditation process and he served as the first Chairman of AAALAC's Council on Accreditation.

Award Criteria

The AAALAC International Bennett J. Cohen Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have, through their exceptional service and significant contributions to AAALAC International, demonstrated a strong and abiding commitment to advancing animal welfare and science through promotion of the highest standards of research animal care in research, testing, and education.

Nominations

1. A call for nominations will be initiated by the AAALAC International Executive Office annually (October-December) to the AAALAC International Member Organization Delegates, Council on Accreditation, and Council Emeriti. Self-nominations are discouraged, and the award need not be given each year.
2. All nomination materials must be received by December 31 for awards presented at the Annual Meeting of the AAALAC International Member Organization Delegates, typically held in May. The deadline for nominations will not be extended.

Nomination documents must include:

- a. A completed copy of the nomination form.
- b. Supporting documentation that indicates the nominee's achievements.
 - A brief statement describing the nominee's major contributions to AAALAC and their impact on the organization* (no more than 250 words).
 - Indicate if the nominee has international experience and briefly describe that experience.
 - A copy of the nominee's CV.
- c. Three (3) letters of support, including the sponsor/nominator's letter.

* Nominations may include individuals who are not currently active in AAALAC, but in their career with AAALAC have met the aforementioned criteria.

3. The nomination documents will be forwarded to the Bennett J. Cohen Award Nominating Committee within two weeks after the December 31 deadline.
4. The Nominating Committee will consist of the three most recent recipients of the Bennett J. Cohen Award willing to participate. This Committee will evaluate the nominations and make a formal recommendation to the Board of Directors by March 1. If the Nominating Committee's recommendation is not unanimous or members unanimously agree that two or more nominations are equally meritorious, the information will be provided to the Board of Directors for a final determination.
5. The Board of Directors will review the Nominating Committee's recommendation and supporting documentation and make the final decision whether or not to bestow the AAALAC International Bennett J. Cohen Award upon the recommended individual.
6. If the decision is to make an award, the Board of Directors will direct the Executive Office to send a notification letter to the nominator and recipient. The recipient is recognized with a crystal and a \$3,000 award.

Approved – February 2026

Approved – September 2024

Approved – April 2024

Approved – September 2022