Rules for the Olga Taussky-Todd Lecture

International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

(14 August 2010; revised 23 July 2011,12 May 2018,
3 September 2022 and 13 September 2025)

1. The ICIAM President is in charge of the selection process to form the Olga Taussky-Todd Lecturer Committee (OTT Committee).

- The ICIAM President asks the AWM (Association of Women for Mathematics), the EWM (European Women in Mathematics) and similar organizations (see attachment) to suggest names for the OTT Committee.
- The final decision on who chairs the OTT Committee and who are its members is made by the ICIAM Officers.
- The members of the OTT Committee should be appointed 30 months before the ICIAM Congress.

2. The OTT Committee should consist of 5-7 members, at least half of whom are women. The complete OTT Committee is public information.

3. The specification for the OTT Lecture is:
"This honor is to be conferred on a woman who has made outstanding contributions in industrial, applied mathematics, and/or scientific computation."

4. The OTT Committee generates a call for nominations in consultation with the ICIAM President 28 months before the ICIAM Congress.

- The deadline for submission of nominations should be 21 months before the next ICIAM Congress.
- Maintaining the integrity and reputation of the OTT Lecture is of great importance. For this reason conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts are to be avoided, as described in the appended "Guidelines on handling Conflicts of Interest (CoI) in the selection of the Olga Taussky-Todd Lecturer".

5. The selection of the OTT Lecturer is done by the OTT Committee 18 months before the ICIAM Congress.

6. The OTT Committee creates an ordered list of about two names, which is sent to the President, who invites the prize's winner. Should both candidates decline then the OTT Committee should propose a new candidate.

7. The designated OTT Lecturer presents the OTT lecture at the ICIAM Congress.

8. There is no requirement that the OTT Lecturers hold membership in any member society of ICIAM or any other society.

9. The OTT Lecturer will be announced 16 months before the ICIAM Congress on the ICIAM website and the Congress website.

10. The OTT Committee produces:

- a press release (for the press);
- a statement for the ICIAM website and for the Congress website;
- a statement for the ICIAM Congress Program and Proceedings.

11. Beginning with the 2023 congress, the OTT Lecturer will receive an honorarium of 5000 USD, will not pay the registration fee for the Congress, and will have her travel and local expenses covered by the Congress organizers.

12. The OTT Committee Chair presents the OTT Lecturer at the Congress or designates an appropriate person to do so.

13. Generally the ICIAM President is *not* a member of the OTT Committee. However he or she should monitor the process so that in case of problems he or she can react to such problems.

14. The OTT Committee is dissolved after the ICIAM Congress.

Approved at the ICIAM Board meeting in Delhi, 14 August 2010
Approved at the ICIAM Board meeting in Vancouver, 23 July 2011
Approved at the ICIAM Board meeting in Philadelphia, 12 May 2018
Approved at the ICIAM Board meeting in Glasgow, 3 September 2022
Approved at the ICIAM Board meeting in Hanoi, 13 September 2025

Rolf Jeltsch, President of ICIAM (2007-2011)
Barbara Keyfitz, President of ICIAM (2011-2015)
Maria J. Esteban, President of ICIAM (2015-2019)
Ya-xiang Yuan, President of ICIAM (2019-2023)
Wil Schilders, President of ICIAM (2023-2027)

(Attachment: similar organisations)

AWM and EWM have been the prime organisations to suggest names of committee members for the OTT lecture. However, there are also organisations on other continents that represent the interests of women in mathematics. Therefore, we henceforth propose to also involve the following organisations to suggest committee members:

- Asia-Oceania Women in Mathematics (AOWM), the continental organization for women in mathematics in Asia and Oceania established in 2022. There are more than 200 founding members from 18 Asian and 0ceanian countries (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan). http://aowmath.org/
- CGD-UMALCA (Comisión de Género y Diversidad de Unión Matemática de América Latina y el Caribe) established in 2020, https://www.umalca.org/acerca/cgd/
- AWMA (African Women in Mathematics) created at the African Institute for Mathematics Sciences (AIMS), established in 2013.
- AMUCWMA (African Mathematical Union Commission on Women in Maths in Africa), founded in 1986

(Attachment: Conflict of Interest Guidelines)

Guidelines on handling Conflicts of Interest in the selection of the Olga Taussky-Todd lecturer

(Approved by the ICIAM Board, 2 June 2012)

Guidelines for identifying conflicts of interest:

Maintaining the integrity and reputation of the OTT lecture is of great importance. For this reason conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflict are to be strenuously avoided. Although a precise definition of conflict of interest, encompassing all possible situations, is not possible, these guidelines aim to minimize the possibility of favoritism, bias, or the appearance of these. The members of the OTT Committee (OTT Committee) need to consider the spirit of these guidelines, and declare a conflict if they feel their participation might create an appearance of favoritism or bias. Borderline cases should be discussed with the OTT Committee Chair. While conflicts of interest can be expected to arise naturally, it is important that they be declared and handled as discussed below. When the relationship between a committee member and a nominee may reasonably be suspected of influencing the selection of the OTT Lecturer, action must be taken to resolve the situation.

Conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such conflicts, arise, for example, if:

(1) A body of work (paper, significant piece of research, or the like) considered in the nomination was done by someone while a student or postdoc of the committee member.

(2) The person nominated was a former student, recent postdoc, or the advisor of the committee member.

(3) The research being judged is a collaborative effort between the committee member and the nominee.

(4) The nominee is a close friend or family member.

It is less clear what to do when the relationship is more distant, or when the nominee is a colleague such as a co-worker in the same department. In such cases, the committee member and the OTT Committee Chair should consider the circumstances and how they will appear to the community.

Procedures for handling conflicts of interest:

(1) The text of the call for nominations includes the members of the OTT Committee. The call will explicitly state that nominations of an OTT Committee member will not be considered.

(2) The OTT Committee Chair oversees the selection process and so has the responsibility to see that each nomination receives fair treatment and that no impression is created that a conflict of interest has been disregarded.

(3) The first time an OTT Committee member reviews a nomination, the member must declare any conflict of interest immediately. Borderline cases will be decided by the OTT Committee Chair. In case there is a conflict of interest, the member is excused from the committee.If in the subsequent deliberations the nomination is removed, the member may be invited back to the OTT Committee. If the nomination remains in consideration, the OTT Committee Chair may choose to appoint a replacement for the excused member.