

Call for nominations

‘The EFCATS young generation catalysis challenge’

Background

To strengthen the interactions and to more fully integrate the younger generation into the European catalysis community, EFCATS is organizing a catalysis challenge for young researchers open to all EFCATS member countries. The challenge will be held at Wageningen University and Research (WUR), The Netherlands from 9-11 July 2018 with two young researchers (young = PhD students and postdocs/researchers who obtained their PhD after 1 July 2016) from each EFCATS country being involved.

Selection of candidates

Each participant country/national society should now select 2 candidates and inform the local organizing committee of their names and contact details before March 30 2018.

We would like to emphasise that the selection criteria should not (only) be based on number of papers published, etc., but should take account of other abilities such as personal motivation, a strong ability to communicate and proactively interact with other team members, the ability to act as a team leader and possession of the imagination necessary to develop a catalysis project, which is not only scientifically sound, but also challenging and “provocative”.

At the start of the challenge, the teams of competitors will be formed by a draw from the registered participants.

Outline of the challenge

The goal of the challenge will be for the teams of competitors (4-5 members per team, thereby representing an international mixture) to write a 10 page research proposal over one and a half days on a predefined topic. The topic will be announced on the first day by the organizers. On the last day of the challenge the participating teams will be required to present their proposal to the EFCATS board and the other participants. Based on the quality of the written proposal and the presentation, 3 prizes will be awarded to the best three teams. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

Awards

Each of the members of the winning team will receive a voucher of 500 €

Each of the members of the first runner up team will receive a voucher of 200 €.

Each of the members of the second runner up team will receive a voucher of 100 €.

Location and accommodation

The challenge will be held at Wageningen University (Wageningen, the Netherlands.)

Hotels need to be arranged by the participants themselves. We have an option (reserved until 9 June) on 23 double rooms in the Reehorst (reehorst.nl). The cost per room is 69 euros per night excluding breakfast and excluding tourist tax. When booking the room please use the code “WURZOMER”.

This hotel is very conveniently located next to the railway station of ‘Ede-Wageningen’ (5 mins walk) which has a direct connection to Schiphol airport. The bus station with buses to

the Wageningen campus is also next to the hotel (travel time less than 20 mins). Assistants will be present on the first day in the hotel to help with the travel.

Costs

The participants have to cover their own travel expenses and accommodation. Lunches, dinners and coffee/tea are included.

The participation is free of charge (only the 2 persons selected by country/national society can participate).

Tentative time schedule

	Activity	Location
Monday 9 July		
Morning	Arrival at hotel	
13.00	Lunch	hotel
14.00	Start of challenge	WUR
	Welcome, introduction	
	Formation of teams	
19.00	Dinner	t.b.a
Tuesday 10 July		
9.00	Competition	WUR
12.30	Lunch	
18.30	Hand-in of written proposals	
19.00	Dinner	t.b.a
Wednesday 11 July		
12.00	Hand-in of slides of presentations	WUR
12.00	Lunch	
13.00	Presentations	
16.30	Decision making	
17.00	Awarding prizes	
19.00	Gala dinner	
Thursday 12 July		
	departure	

Organizing team: The EFCATS Board (Malgorzata Witko, Angeliki Lemonidou, Bert Weckhuysen, Justin Hargreaves, Fabrizio Cavani, Harry Bitter)

Local organizing team: Fabrizio Cavani & Harry Bitter

Deadlines:

15 March: deadline nomination to national societies, i.e. Dutch Catalysis Society (harry.bitter@wur.nl) .

30 March: submission of 2 names by the national societies to the organizers. The attached 'registration form catalysis challenge' should be used for that. It also describes how IP issues will be handled. (harry.bitter@wur.nl)

April: organizers will distribute (more) details to the participants
9 July start of challenge.

Before 9 June: possibility to reserve a hotel room at special rate (to be reserved by participants directly).