Awards

AUTONOMOUS AGENTS RESEARCH AWARD

The *ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award* is an annual award for excellence in research in the area of autonomous agents. The award is intended to recognize researchers in autonomous agents whose current work is an important influence on the field. It is an official ACM award, funded by an endowment created from the proceeds of the Autonomous Agents conferences.

Recipient: The selection committee for the ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award is pleased to announce that Professor Sven Koenig is the recipient of the 2026 award.

Citation: Sven Koenig is Chancellor's Professor and Bren Chair at the Computer Science Department of UC Irvine. He is one of the foundational figures of modern AI planning and search, whose work has fundamentally shaped how intelligent agents reason and act in complex, dynamic environments. His contributions seamlessly bridge theory and practice, with a profound impact not only on AI and multi-agent systems, but also on robotics, where his algorithms have enabled robust, scalable autonomy in real-world robotic platforms. A Fellow of AAAI, AAAS, and ACM, Professor Koenig has received several best paper awards from AAAI, ICAPS, and SoCS, and has contributed to the community in numerous service roles, most recently serving as the conference chair of AAAI 2026.

INFLUENTIAL PAPER AWARD

The *IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award* seeks to recognize publications that have made influential and long-lasting contributions to the field. Candidates for this award are papers that have proved a key result, led to the development of a new subfield, demonstrated a significant new application or system, or simply presented a new way of thinking about a topic that has proved influential.

This year's award committee selected two winners to be recognized with an IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award:

Book: Jeffrey S. Rosenschein and Gilad Zlotkin, *Rules of Encounter: Designing Conventions for Automated Negotiation Among Computers*, MIT Press,1994.

Citation: The book helped define the field of multi-agent systems by introducing and promoting the application of game theory and mechanism design to create interaction protocols among agents. Before the work described in the book, much of the research in distributed AI assumed agents had a common goal and were fully collaborative. The book advocates a rigorous mathematical foundation for analyzing the interactions between self-interested agents. The book has 2439 citations.

Collection of 3 papers:

(1) Amy Greenwald and Keith Hall, *Correlated-Q Learning*, ICML 2003.

(2) Junling Hu and Michael Wellman, *Nash Q-Learning for General-Sum Stochastic Games*, Journal of Machine Learning Research 4 (2003) 1039-1069 .

(3) Amy Greenwald and Amir Jafari, *A General Class of No-Regret Learning Algorithms and Game-Theoretic Equilibria in Learning Theory and Kernel Machines*, Springer Nature, 2003.

Citation: The papers collectively address learning in games (Correlated-Q Learning, Nash Q-Learning, No-Regret Algorithms), which play an important role in the multi-agent area. This line of work, conducted by members of the multi-agent community, has been fundamental to developing the theoretical foundations of multi-agent reinforcement learning.

DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD

The *Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award* is given for dissertations in the field of autonomous agents and multiagent systems that show originality, depth, impact, as well as quality of writing, supported by high-quality publications.

The recipient of the 2025 IFAAMAS Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award is Dr. Tonghan Wang, whose thesis entitled "Advancing Deep Learning for Multi-agent AI: Mechanisms, Organizations, and Dynamics" was supervised by Prof. David Parkes and Prof. Milind Tambe at Harvard University.

The selection committee also wishes to recognize Dr. Théo Delemazure whose thesis "Expressive Ballots for Voting Systems and Political Analysis" was supervised by Dr. Jérôme Lang and Dr. Dominik Peters at Université Paris Dauphine and Dr. Nicholas Teh whose thesis "Algorithmic Fairness in Sequential Decision-Making" was supervised by Prof. Edith Elkind and Prof. Paul Goldberg at the University of Oxford.

BEST PAPER AWARDS

Among the many excellent submissions received, the conference will honor papers in the main track with awards: the Best Paper Award (for which all papers are eligible), and the Pragnesh Jay Modi Best Student Paper Award (for papers with a principal author who is a student).

The Pragnesh Jay Modi Best Student Paper Award is generously supported by Springer.

The winners will be announced during the conference opening.

BLUE SKY IDEAS AWARD

The focus of the Blue Sky Ideas track is on visionary ideas, long-term challenges, new research opportunities, and controversial debate. It serves as an incubator for innovative, risky, and provocative ideas, and it aims at providing a forum for publishing and presenting such ideas without being constrained by the results-oriented standards followed in the main track of the conference.

At the conference, one of the papers submitted to this special track will receive the *Blue Sky Ideas Award*.

The Blue Sky Ideas track is generously supported by the Computing Community Consortium (CCC).

BEST DEMO AWARD

The *Best Demo Award* will be bestowed upon the authors of the most applicable and innovative contribution to the Demonstration track. The winner will be announced during the conference banquet.