Call for Nominations – 2026 ACM SIGMOD AWARDS

Nominations and inputs for the awards should be submitted via e-mail to the SIGMOD 2026 Awards Committee Chair at sharad@ics.uci.edu

Nominations must be received by February 15th, 2026 to be considered for this year's awards.

About the SIGMOD Awards

In 1992, ACM SIGMOD started the Annual SIGMOD Innovations Award and SIGMOD Contributions Award as part of its Awards Program. In 1999, a test-of-time award was introduced to honor a paper from ten years prior. In 2004, SIGMOD, with the unanimous approval of ACM Council, renamed the Innovations Award in honor of Dr. Edgar F. (Ted) Codd (1923 – 2003), who invented the relational data model that led to the significant development of the database field as a scientific discipline. In 2015, the System award was devised to recognize impactful systems (as opposed to papers). Finally, this year marks the introduction of the Hector Garcia-Molina mentorship award. More details about each award are below.

The recipients will receive the awards at the annual ACM SIGMOD/PODS Conference in all cases. If the award is shared among multiple recipients, each will receive a plaque, but the monetary prize will be shared.

SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award

The SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award is for innovative and highly significant innovations of enduring value to the development, understanding, or use of data systems. The award is given annually (if there is at least one qualified candidate) and consists of a plaque plus an honorarium of $10,000. Previous winners of the Innovations Award are: Michael Stonebraker (1992), James Gray (1993), Philip Bernstein (1994), David DeWitt (1995), C. Mohan (1996), David Maier (1997), Serge Abiteboul (1998), Hector Garcia-Molina (1999), Rakesh Agrawal (2000), Rudolf Bayer (2001), Patricia Selinger (2002), Donald Chamberlin (2003), Ronald Fagin (2004), Michael Carey (2005), Jeffrey Ullman (2006), Jennifer Widom (2007), Moshe Vardi (2008), Masaru Kitsuregawa (2009), Umeshwar Dayal (2010), Surajit Chaudhuri (2011), Bruce Lindsay (2012), Stefano Ceri (2013), Martin Kersten (2014), Laura Haas (2015), Gerhard Weikum (2016), Goetz Graefe (2017), Raghu Ramakrishnan (2018), Anastasia Ailamaki (2019), Beng Chin Ooi (2020), Alon Halevy (2021), Dan Suciu (2022), Joe Hellerstein (2023), Samuel Madden (2024), Carlo Zanialo (2025).

Eligibility: Anyone except the current elected officers of SIGMOD (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer), and members of the SIGMOD Awards Committee. Awards should be for *innovations* not already honored by a major ACM Award (e.g., the Turing Award, a SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award, or a SIGMOD Contributions Award). A candidate can be considered for multiple awards as long as each is for a distinct innovation.

Nomination: Anyone in the field can nominate one or more persons (self-nominations are excluded). Nominations should include a CV of the nominee, a proposed citation (up to 25 words), a succinct (100-250 words) description of the innovation, and a detailed statement to justify the nomination. Along with the nomination, up to three additional supporting letters should be submitted. Such letters should not be simple endorsements of the nomination, but convey additional factual information. The Awards Committee will evaluate all nominations and decide on zero or more winners. The Awards Committee itself is free to identify candidates for the award and is not required to pick among submitted nominations. The committee will automatically re-consider previously submitted nominations from the past two years (2024 and 2025). However, nominators are welcome to revise the supporting documents for such candidates if they so wish.

SIGMOD Contributions Award

The SIGMOD Contributions Award is for outstanding service to the database field through new community initiatives, professional service, standards activities, and research funding. The award is given annually (if there is at least one qualified candidate) and consists of a plaque plus an honorarium of $5,000. Previous winners of the Contributions Award are: Maria Zemankova (1992), Gio Wiederhold (1993), Yahiko Kambayashi (1995), Jeffrey Ullman (1996), Avi Silberschatz (1997), Won Kim (1998), Raghu Ramakrishnan (1999), Laura Haas and Michael Carey (2000), Daniel Rosenkrantz (2001), Richard Snodgrass (2002), Michael Ley (2003), Surajit Chaudhuri (2004), Hongjun Lu (2005), Tamer Ozsu (2006), Hans-Joerg Schek (2007), Klaus Dittrich (2008), Beng Chin Ooi (2009), David Lomet (2010), Gerhard Weikum (2011), Marianne Winslett (2012), H.V. Jagadish (2013), Kyu-Young Whang (2014), Curtis Dyreson (2015), Samuel Madden (2016), Yannis E. Ioannidis (2017), Z. Meral Özsoyoğlu (2018), Ahmed Elmagarmid (2019), a team consisting of Philippe Bonnet, Juliana Freire, Stratos Idreos, Stefan Manegold, Ioana Manolescu, and Dennis Shasha in 2020, Divesh Srivastava (2021), Christian Jensen (2022), Selcuk Candan (2023), Sihem Amer-Yahia (2024), Hector Munoz-Avila & Sylvia Spengler (2025).

Eligibility: Anyone except the current elected officers of SIGMOD (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer), and members of the SIGMOD Awards Committee. Awards should be for *contributions* not already honored by a major ACM Award (e.g., the Turing Award, SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award, or SIGMOD Contributions Award). A candidate can be considered for multiple awards as long as each is for a distinct contribution.

Nomination: Anyone in the field can nominate one or more persons (self-nominations are excluded). Nominations should include a CV of the nominee, a proposed citation (up to 25 words), a succinct (100-250 words) description of the contribution, and a detailed statement to justify the nomination. Along with the nomination, up to three additional supporting letters should be submitted. Such letters should not be simple endorsements of the nomination, but convey additional factual information. The Awards Committee will evaluate all nominations and decide on zero or more winners. The Awards Committee itself is free to identify candidates for the award and is not required to pick among submitted nominations. The committee will automatically re-consider previously submitted nominations from the past two years

(2024 and 2025). However, nominators are welcome to revise the supporting documents for such candidates if they so wish.

Test-of-time Award

The ACM SIGMOD Test of Time Award recognizes the best paper from the SIGMOD proceedings **10--12 years** prior, based on the criterion of identifying the paper that has had the most impact (research, products, methodology) over the intervening decade. The award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of $1000. In 2026, papers that were published in the SIGMOD Proceedings in 2014--2016 will be considered. In picking a winner, the Awards Committee evaluates the evidence that the scientific or engineering contributions of the paper have had a lasting impact on our research community, on the state-of-the-art in practice, or on society more broadly. The committee values impact in practice and impact in research through significant follow-up research or establishment of a new research area. Past winners are listed at [SIGMOD Test-of-Time Award – SIGMOD Website](#).

Nomination: Anyone in the field can nominate one or more papers (self-nominations are excluded). Nominations should include a justification of no more than 750 words; plain text is preferred. Additional supporting letters are not accepted for this award. The Awards Committee itself is free to identify candidates for the award and is not required to pick among submitted nominations.

SIGMOD Systems Award

The SIGMOD Systems Award is awarded to an individual or set of individuals to recognize the development of a software or hardware system whose technical contributions have had significant impact on the theory or practice of large-scale data management systems. The award consists of a plaque and a cash prize of $5000. The SIGMOD Systems Award is intended to recognize data management projects that are innovative, and which have widespread deployment and impact. Not every winner has to be equal in both dimensions, but neither pure research projects (innovation without a practical artifact with widespread impact) nor a pure product (a useful artifact without deep innovation) are good candidates. Some concrete criteria:
  · Is the project embodied in a piece of software that is widely available?
  · Is the software used by a large number of people, and does it have a major practical impact?
  · Does the project embody innovative technical ideas?
  · Has the project substantially changed the direction of the field?
Past winners are listed at https://sigmod.org/sigmod-awards/sigmod-systems-award/ .

Eligibility: Anyone except the current elected officers of SIGMOD (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer), and members of the SIGMOD Awards Committee. Awards should be for contributions not already honored by a major ACM Award (e.g., the Turing Award, SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award, or SIGMOD Contributions Award).   A candidate can be considered for multiple awards as long as each is for a distinct

contribution.

Nomination:

Anyone in the field may nominate one or more individuals, except for self-nominations. Nominations should specify the system being recognized and include: a proposed citation (up to 25 words) and a concise description of the innovation/contribution (100–250 words), including a justification of its significance and the rationale for selecting the nominees to be explicitly recognized for the system. Along with the nomination, up to three additional supporting letters should be submitted. Such letters should not be simple endorsements of the nomination, but convey additional factual information. The Awards Committee will evaluate all nominations and decide on zero or more winners. The Awards Committee itself is free to identify candidates for the award and is not required to pick among submitted nominations. The committee will automatically re-consider previously submitted nominations from the past two years (2024 and 2025). However, nominators are welcome to revise the supporting documents for such candidates if they so wish.

Hector Garcia-Molina Distinguished Mentorship Award

The SIGMOD Mentorship Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated *innovation* and/or *sustained excellence* in mentoring—broadly defined—within the data management community. The award celebrates those who have substantially shaped the careers, research trajectories, or professional development of others through outstanding mentorship practices. Mentorship may take many forms, including but not limited to: guiding students and early-career researchers, fostering inclusive research environments, creating new opportunities or programs that enhance mentoring at scale, and serving as a role model whose influence extends well beyond one's direct advisees or organizational boundaries. The award consists of a plaque and a $5,000 honorarium, generously supported through an annual disbursement from the Hector Garcia-Molina Memorial Fund, established by Jeffrey Ullman and Ramana Yerneni.The award will be presented annually—provided qualified nominations are received—at the ACM SIGMOD/PODS Conference by the Chair of the SIGMOD Awards Committee.

Eligibility

The award is open to all individuals in the global data management community whose mentorship contributions have had a **significant and demonstrable impact**. A "true mentor" typically exhibits qualities and behaviors that go beyond technical guidance or clear and engaging teaching - they inspire, empower, and create lasting impact.

Excellence in mentoring encompasses all the activities that empower and inspire mentees, including: (*a*) helping them see new scientific horizons and pursue bold ideas, (*b*) listening and supporting, (*c*) creating inclusive, safe spaces for learning and collaboration, (*d*) leading by example, imparting a sense of scientific values and integrity, (*e*) connecting mentees to opportunities, networks, and resources, (*f*) showing long-term commitment, sustaining relationships and fostering success beyond formal roles.

Contributions may include *sustained excellence*, demonstrated by a long-term track record of mentoring that may extend be*yond* the nominee's own students, team members, or direct reports as well as

innovation in mentorship, such as developing new programs, platforms, or opportunities that expand or enhance mentoring

There are no restrictions based on career stage, institutional affiliation, or geographic region.

Members of the **current SIGMOD Awards Committee** and **elected officers of SIGMOD** (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer) are **not eligible** for nomination while serving.

Nomination
A nomination package must include:

(a) a nomination letter (up to 2 pages) that clearly articulates the nominee's mentorship contributions and describes both the scale and impact of their efforts. It should highlight how the nominee has demonstrated innovation and/or sustained excellence in mentoring within the data management community.

(b) supporting letters: At least three letters of support are required. These letters should provide concrete examples of the nominee's mentorship, its outcomes, and the broader influence of their work. To reflect the award's emphasis on broad excellence, at least one supporting letter must come from an individual who was not directly supervised by the nominee. Additional letters are welcome and encouraged.

All nomination materials must be documented, signed, and will be treated as confidential. Nominations should be submitted by individuals who have personal experience with the nominee's mentorship contributions.

All nomination materials must be submitted electronically as a single PDF. Nominations remain active for three years, subject to eligibility.

The SIGMOD Awards Committee comprises:

 Ailamaki Anastasia, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
Sourav S. Bhowmick, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Georgia Koutrika, Athena Research Center
Sharad Mehrotra, University of California , Irvine (Chair)
C. Mohan, Retired IBM Fellow
Ooi Beng Chin, Zhejiang University
Rachel Pottinger, University of British Columbia
Sayan Ranu, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Cyrus Shahabi, University of Southern California
Wang-Chiew Tan, Meta