

IYPT Honorary Awards Presented for the First Time at the IYPT 2026 Closing Ceremony

For the first time in the history of the International Young Physicists' Tournament, **Honorary Membership Awards** were presented in recognition of long-standing dedication and service to the IYPT community.

The awards were presented during the **Closing Ceremony of IYPT 2026 in Zurich, Switzerland**, celebrating individuals whose commitment over many years has helped shape and strengthen the Tournament.

We are proud to recognise those who have dedicated so much of their time and expertise to the Tournament and to the young physicists at its heart.

Congratulations to all of the first Honorary Members and thank you for being an integral part of the IYPT story.









IYPT Bronze Honorary Member (10+ years)



Eric Schertenleib

Eric has been involved with IYPT in many roles over the years, as a student, team leader, juror, and Switzerland's representative on the IOC. For several years, he was the main organizer of the Swiss Young Physicists' Tournament (SYPT) and later played a leading role in organizing IYPT 2026 in Zurich. He currently serves as Treasurer of the IYPT Association. Outside of IYPT, Eric works in the private sector and is an avid cyclist.



Victor Paunescu

Victor Păunescu has been a long-standing contributor to international physics education and competitions, with extensive experience supporting Romanian participation in IYPT. He has served as a Romanian Team Leader and member of the international jury at numerous IYPT editions, including tournaments in Taipei, Thailand, Russia, Singapore, China, Poland and Budapest. Through his work in physics education, national team preparation and international competition, he has helped generations of Romanian students participate in IYPT and gain experience in scientific investigation and communication. His broader contribution to international science competitions and physics education has further strengthened the connections between national programmes and the international IYPT community.



Farida Tahir



Nirut Pussadee

Nirut Pussadee is a physicist and university educator whose work combines physics research, experimental science and education. As a lecturer and researcher at Chiang Mai University, she has extensive experience in experimental physics and has contributed to the development of students through hands-on scientific investigation. Her involvement in physics education and student experimental work reflects the central values of IYPT: curiosity, independent investigation, experimentation and scientific communication. Her academic background in biophysics and microfluidics further strengthens the connection between advanced scientific research and physics education.



Sandu Golcea



Mihály Hömöstrei

Mihály Hömöstrei has been one of the key figures in the Hungarian and international YPT community. He has served as an organizer and coach of the Hungarian Young Physicists' Tournament and as Secretary General of IYPT. He was also the Lead Organizer of the 2024 IYPT in Budapest, contributing substantially to the successful organization of the international tournament. His work in physics education, student experimentation and competence development has been closely connected with the educational philosophy of IYPT and has helped strengthen the tournament as an international community.



Yung-Yuan Hsu

Yung-Yuan Hsu is an Associate Professor of Physics at National Taiwan Normal University and has contributed to the development of physics education through both academic research and the Young Physicists' Tournament. His research background spans superconductivity, magnetism and ferroelectricity, while his professional work also includes a strong focus on IYPT education. His involvement with IYPT began in 2009 in Tianjin, China, where he participated as an observer. Since then, he has taken part in the tournament every year, with the exception of 2011 in Tehran, Iran. Through his long-standing involvement in physics education and the academic community, he has helped connect the IYPT approach to rigorous scientific thinking with broader physics teaching and research.



Assen Kyuldjiev

A long-standing contributor to physics education and the Young Physicists' Tournament movement in Bulgaria. He has been a member of the jury of the Bulgarian Young Physicists' Tournament since its revival in 2000, helping to develop and support the national competition for generations of students. He served as an independent IYPT juror from 2011 to 2017 and represented Bulgaria on the International Organizing Committee (IOC) from 2011 to 2015, contributing to the international development and continuity of IYPT.

IYPT Silver Honorary Member (15+ years)



Stanislav Panoš

Stanislav Panoš has been a dedicated member of the Czech IYPT community since 2007. He served as a member and later Head of the Czech IYPT Committee, supporting the preparation and development of Czech teams. Between 2011 and 2017, he participated in IYPT as a Team Leader, Team Leader/Juror and Independent Juror, contributing his extensive experience in physics education and experimental physics to the international tournament. His long-term commitment has helped strengthen the Czech YPT programme and connect it with the wider IYPT community.



Gavin Jennings

Gavin Jennings has dedicated almost two decades to IYPT as a juror, Team Leader, jury chair and national representative. His students first participated in IYPT in 2006, and he has represented New Zealand at the tournament since 2007. He has served as New Zealand's IOC representative since 2010 and has chaired international juries and participated in IYPT Finals on numerous occasions. In 2024, he was elected to the IYPT Executive Committee and subsequently led the Problem Selection Committee in 2025 and 2026. He is also coordinating the organization of IYPT 2027 in New Zealand, continuing his long-standing contribution to the international development of IYPT.



Daniel Keller

Daniel Keller has been actively involved in the Swiss Young Physicists' Tournament and IYPT since 2005. As a physics teacher at MNG Rämibühl Zürich, he has coached generations of talented Swiss students through national SYPT competitions and IYPT preparation. He has represented Switzerland as a Team Leader and Team Leader/Juror and has served as an experienced juror at several IYPT editions. His roles have included Chair Juror and member of the Final Jury, combining extensive experience in physics education with a strong commitment to developing students through the IYPT format.

IYPT Gold Honorary Member (20+ years)



František Kundracik



Alan Allison

IYPT Platinum Honorary Member (25+ years)



Martin Plesch

Honorary President



Alan Allison