

## **2012 Annual Report for the Esselen Award Committee**

**From:** Anna W. Sromek, Chair for the 2013 Esselen Award

**Date:** 1/25/2013

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In April 2012, the Esselen Award was presented to Dr. Bruce Ganem of Cornell University.

I was appointed the Chair of the Esselen Award Committee for 2013 in June, 2012. Prior to accepting the position, there was a lot of discussion among the committee and NESACS board members that the candidate pool in recent years has been rather small and poorly represented by industry. Thus, I had two main objectives for the current award cycle: a) ensure a highly competitive group of candidates; b) establish a canvassing committee for the Esselen award.

### **2013 Esselen Award**

We received ten applications of highly qualified candidates for the 2013 award: eight new applications and two resubmissions.

The team of Drs. Gelb and Turecek from the University of Washington have been chosen for the 2013 Esselen Award.

The Esselen Award dinner is scheduled to take place on April 4, 2013. Social hour and dinner will be at the Harvard Faculty Club and the lecture will be at the Pfizer Lecture Hall in the Mallinkrodt building of the Harvard Chemistry Department.

### **Canvassing Committee**

In recent years, there have been variable (and smaller) numbers of candidates getting nominated for the Esselen Award. There have been very few nominees from industry, and women and minorities have consistently been underrepresented. One way to rectify these issues would be to have a canvassing committee identify a well-rounded group of candidates to ensure a truly competitive election. I drew an outline for establishing a canvassing committee (see next page):

Different people have been suggested by NESACS members as well as past and present Esselen award committee members. These include: Drs. Magid Abou-Gharbia, Christopher Welch, Pat Confalone, John C. Amedio, Ralph Scannell, Paul Anderson, Dudley Hirshbach, Thomas Tritton, Anne M. Gaffney, Joseph S. Francisco, Geraldine Richmond, Luis Echegoyen, Laura Kiessling, Teri Quinn-Gray, and Rigoberto Hernandez. To date, Dr. Ralph Scannell has confirmed his willingness to participate on the canvassing committee.

## Proposed Timeline for Establishing a Canvassing Committee for the Esselen Award

