

*** Proposal for Best Student Paper Award at ISIT'07 ***

At the BOG meeting in Seattle the IT student committee proposed to initiate a best student paper award for future ISITs. The proposal was approved in principle for ISIT'07 only, with the idea that, if successful, the award would become permanent for future symposia with responsibility for the award taken over by the IT awards committee. The TPC for ISIT'07 was charged with presenting a proposal for a best student paper award at the Allerton BOG meeting, which is contained herein.

Eligibility criteria: In order for a paper to be considered for a best student paper award at ISIT'07, a student must be the dominant contributor to the paper. Thus, the following two criteria must be met:

- (1) The 1st author must be a registered student at the time of paper submission
- (2) This student author must present the paper at ISIT'07.

Exceptions to (1) will be made for papers where authors are listed alphabetically but a student is the main contributor to the paper. In this case the paper will be eligible only if the student's advisor sends an email to the TPC chairs stating that the student was the main contributor to the paper.

Exceptions to (2) will be made only in cases of foreign students that are unable to attend ISIT'07 due to visa restrictions. In this case an alternate method to score the student's presentation of the work will be used.

Eligibility Confirmation: We have not worked out how we will screen papers to only consider papers with dominant student authors that will also present the paper. We may have students check a box in EDAS stating they are eligible. EDAS already has a mechanism to input the paper presenter and check it against registration: we hope to use that mechanism to confirm that the presenter is a student and the 1st author. Alternatively, the TPC could manually check the eligibility of the small pool of papers to be considered for the award. We will have the details of confirming eligibility worked out within the next month once we figure out what can be done automatically via EDAS.

Basis for Judging: The TPC will be responsible for selecting the winner of the best paper award based on the technical contribution of the paper as well as the paper presentation. We anticipate that we will add a box to the review form asking reviewers if the paper is in the top 5% of papers that typically appear at ISIT. We will also look at papers that get highly ranked and/or get exceptional comments on the review forms regardless of whether the reviewer checked this box or not. Finally, we will ask the TPC for any additional suggestions for consideration based on their paper handling. We hope to get a pool of 20-40 papers based on this. Papers not eligible for the award based on criteria (1) will be eliminated. The TPC will then narrow down this pool to about 6-8 ranked papers, where the ranking is based on a score associated with the technical contribution. The student authors of these papers will be informed and their plans to present the paper at ISIT confirmed. Any papers where the student is not presenting the paper for other than

visa reasons will be eliminated for consideration. Two TPC members will attend the presentation of each eligible paper and, along with the session chair, score the presentation quality based on a form we will generate for this purpose. The TPC chairs will decide on the award winner based on both the technical contribution and presentation quality (with some weighting to be determined) within 3 weeks of the end of the conference.

Award: The winner of the best student paper award will receive a plaque and a \$500 check.