Episteme Award

PURPOSE

The Baxter International Foundation's Episteme Award is presented to a nurse scientist* or team of nurse scientists for highly significant research, acknowledging a major breakthrough in nursing knowledge development that impacts the underserved in at least one of the following areas: relating to nutrition/malnutrition, clean water and sanitation, or diabetes prevention.

The Baxter International Foundation generously provides a minimum US $15,000 stipend to the award recipient. The Episteme Laureate will be a plenary speaker at Sigma's biennial convention.

*must be a registered nurse

ELIGIBILITY

Current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are not eligible.

Nominees can receive only one award per biennium. Nominees can accept only one nomination per biennium. Recipients from 2019 and 2021 are not eligible to receive the same award in 2023.

CRITERIA

Nomination should show evidence of meeting the following criteria:

1. Has accomplished a major breakthrough in nursing knowledge development through a seminal contribution or program of global health research focused on the underserved in at least one of the following areas: relating to nutrition/malnutrition, clean water and sanitation, or diabetes prevention
2. Has a significant and recognizable benefit on a national or international level

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Supporting documents required below should address a majority of the above criteria. Entries that do not meet the criteria and submission requirements will be disqualified.
A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form and payment
- Supporting narrative, from the nominator (1-2 pages)
- Two letters of support from diverse sources supporting the criteria (excluding nominator)
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- Letter of Acceptance—A statement from the nominee accepting the nomination and agreeing to attend Sigma's biennial convention if selected as the award recipient
- Supporting documentation—Materials or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria (not to exceed 10 pages). This includes videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

NOMINATION TIMELINE

1 November 2022–1 March 2023

ENTRY FEE

US $50

The fee structure for nominations outside the US is set according to World Bank classifications based on per-capita income designated as low, middle, and high.

NOTIFICATION

Award recipients will be notified in July 2023.

PRESENTATION

All awards will be presented at Sigma's 47th Biennial Convention in San Antonio, TX, USA.

PAST RECIPIENTS

View a brief biography of past recipients online.

CONTACT

For further information, visit International Awards or contact Tonna Thomas.

Frequently Asked Questions

International Awards

General

What is the awards website?

https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/international-awards-for-nursing-excellence
Nominations are submitted through an online system:
https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/intl2023/cfp.cgi

When is the awards deadline?

1 March 2023
(Chapter Key Award is due 15 July 2023)

How much does it cost to submit a nomination?

US $50
The fee structure for nominations outside the US is set according to World Bank classifications based on per-capita income designated as low, middle, and high.

How much does it cost for members outside of the US?

The fee structure for members outside the US is set according to World Bank classifications based on per capita income designated as low, middle, and high as defined by World Bank Basic Indicators table. All fees paid to Sigma, either by individual members or chapters, will be calculated in US currency.
High Income* = US $50
Middle Income* = US $20
Low Income* = US $10
https://www.sigmanursing.org/why-sigma/sigma-membership/explanation-of-membership-dues/world-bank-country-classifications

Is membership required to be a nominee?

Active Sigma membership is required to be a nominee for some awards, but not all. Check an award's criteria sheet to determine eligibility.

Is membership required to be a nominator?

Active Sigma membership is required to nominate for some awards, but not all. Check an award's criteria sheet to determine eligibility.

Does the Chapter Key Award Application use the online system?

Yes. There is a Chapter Key Award online submission form for the 2021-2023 Chapter Key Award. A Word document is available to download in the All Chapter Officer Workgroup on the Circle and complete to apply for the award. Once the application form is completed by the chapter, it must be uploaded through the online entry system. The Chapter Key Form is the only supporting material required for the submission. Any additional documents will be disregarded by the judges.

Award Criteria

Where are the award criteria sheets?

Each award criteria sheet is found on the Sigma International Awards for Nursing Excellence page: https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/international-awards-for-nursing-excellence

Does the nomination need to fulfill all of the criteria points?

Nomination should show evidence of meeting a majority of the criteria.

I am a board member of my chapter. Can I still submit a nomination?

Only current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma staff, and Sigma consultants and contracted staff are ineligible to submit a nomination or be nominated.
Members of the judging committee may not submit a nomination or be nominated for the award they are reviewing.
Nominees can receive only one award per biennium. Nominees can accept only one nomination per biennium. Recipients from 2019 and 2021 are not eligible to receive the same award in 2023.

Submitting a Nomination

How do I submit a nomination for the 2023 International Award?

Nominations are submitted through an online system:
https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/intl2023/cfp.cgi

Is there a hard copy entry form?

No. All entries must be submitted through the online system. Entries mailed to Sigma will not be reviewed.

How do I start an online entry?

You can start an award nomination by clicking the "Submit an entry" button on the International Awards page. You will then select the award category and click "Submit an entry."

How do I nominate a group, chapter, team, or organization?

Some Sigma awards accept nominations for a group; please confirm eligibility on the criteria sheet. To submit a group nomination, select the award and begin entering the nominator information. When asked to enter nominee information, select "group nominee." Be sure to include the name of the group being nominated (e.g., Omega Omega Chapter, 3rd Floor Nurse Leaders, etc.) You will need to enter at least one individual's name and email as the primary contact, so Sigma can notify him or her after the review process. This can be yourself or another individual in the program. It is the primary contact's responsibility to communicate award information to other contributors.
If you are nominating a small group (a floor unit rather than an entire organization or chapter), you should provide the contact information of each member of the group.

I started a submission but had to stop. Can I return to the same entry?

Yes. Using your Entry ID (4-digit number) and Entry Password (6-digit number), you can log-in to a nomination until the system closes on 1 March 2023 (11:59 p.m. EST).

What is my Entry ID and Entry Password?

The Entry ID and Entry Password are emailed to the email address entered by the nominator when an entry is started. You can also view them in the top-left corner of the nomination page. Please contact awards@sigmanursing.org if you have lost your Entry ID and Entry Password.

Can I view, edit, or withdraw my nomination once it is submitted?

Yes. You can view, edit, or withdraw your submission through the 1 March 2023 deadline.

I've withdrawn my entry but already paid. Can I get a refund?

No. The entry fee is non-refundable.

What is the "supporting narrative"?

The supporting narrative is a 1-2 page summary, written by the nominator, describing how the nominee meets the award criteria. This is the nominator's opportunity to write a letter of support.

Can I submit more than two "letters of support"?

No. The judges will only read two letters.

What is the "letter of acceptance"?

This is a statement from the nominee or a representative of the nominated team/organization that they will attend Sigma's 47th Biennial Convention in San Antonio, TX, USA in November 2023.

What is the "supporting documentation"?

Any documentation or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria are "supporting documentation." This includes videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

What formats can be uploaded through the online system?

TXT - Plain Text
HTML - Hyper Text Markup Language, web pages
PDF - Adobe's Portable Document Format
GIF, JPG, PNG - Formats commonly used on the web
RTF - Rich text file (most word processors export this format)
DOC - Microsoft Word
WMV, WMA, MOV, WAV, AIFF - Multimedia formats

Can I pay by check?

No. All entries must submit payment through the online awards system using a credit card (VISA, MC, Discover).

Points of Contact

Whom do I contact with questions about the award criteria?

Each award has a Sigma Award Liaison. Please check the criteria sheet for the liaison's contact information.

Whom do I contact with questions about the awards process?

Kelsey Van Wyk, Awards Coordinator
888.634.7575 (US/Canada toll-free)
+1.317.634.8171 (International)
Email: awards@sigmanursing.org

Whom do I contact if I have problems with the online system?

Confex Technical Support
Call +1.401.334.0220 between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT, Monday-Friday
Email: stti_awards@confex.com