

CREATIVITY • INNOVATION
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

THE SHAH FAMILY INNOVATION PRIZE

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR 2009 PRIZE

**Do you know a young academic or professional
who is making a difference
in reducing global earthquake risk?**

The Shah Family Innovation Prize was created with a substantial gift to the EERI Endowment Fund by the Haresh C. Shah family of Stanford, California. The cash prize honors individuals less than 35 years of age who have demonstrated at early stages in their careers the potential to make major contributions to the field of earthquake risk mitigation and management, particularly in the development of cutting-edge, innovative solutions to global problems in earthquake engineering and related disciplines. The honoree should be in the developing or expanding stage of his or her career, with the promise of important contributions ahead. The intent of the prize is to stimulate further creativity and leadership in the earthquake risk mitigation community and EERI.

Past recipients have included academics as well as practicing engineers, with experience ranging from designing high-end new construction projects in the U.S. to developing risk reduction strategies in developing countries.

1998

Bret Lizundia,
Rutherford and
Chekene



1998

Nicos Makris,
University of
California, Berkeley
(now, Univ. of Patras,
Greece)



2000

Durgesh Rai,
Indian Institute of
Technology, Kanpur,
India



2001

Stephanie Chang,
University of
Washington
(now, Univ. of British
Columbia)



2002

Joshua Marrow,
Simpson, Gumpertz,
& Heger, Inc.
(now, independent
consultant)



2003

Paul VanderMarck,
Risk Management
Solutions, Inc.



2004

Gustavo Parra-
Montesinos,
University of
Michigan



2005

Rebekah Green,
Earth Institute,
Columbia University
(now Western Wash-
ington University)



2006

Ellen Rathje,
University of Texas,
Austin



2007

Rui Pinho,
ROSE School
Pavia, Italy



2008

Jerome Lynch,
University of
Michigan



Nomination Process for the 2009 Shah Family Prize (to be awarded at the EERI Annual Meeting in February 2010)

Individuals are encouraged to nominate candidates from government, private firms, academia, and the international community. EERI membership is not required for either the nominator or candidate. A nomination package consisting of the following must be received in the EERI office by October 15, 2009:

- A one- to two-page Nomination Statement written by the nominator that summarizes the candidate's background, accomplishments, and suitability for the prize.
- A current CV or resume of the candidate (maximum 10 pages).
- Names and contact information for two references, other than the nominator.

Selection Criteria

Candidates must be less than 35 years of age on January 1, 2010. The selection of recipients will emphasize creative and innovative thinkers who have demonstrated at early stages in their careers the potential to make major contributions to the field of earthquake risk mitigation and management. The Selection Committee particularly encourages nominations of candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to activities that will help reduce loss of lives in earthquakes. Individuals will be recognized for a combination of past accomplishments and future potential.

Examples may include (but are not limited to) individuals who have:

- Undertaken innovative research for which the outcomes have potential to significantly influence the practice of earthquake risk mitigation;
- Shown public entrepreneurship through the advocacy, design, or delivery of risk mitigation programs;
- Demonstrated creative solutions to problems in engineering or other fields related to earthquake risk mitigation;
- Shown leadership within an earthquake-related profession.

Past accomplishments will be considered with respect to the degree that they demonstrate social relevance, an intellectual contribution, and viability to earthquake risk mitigation and management. The award will be based on the degree to which the individual fits the desired overall profile of creativity, innovation, and a demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit, rather than based on a single accomplishment or product.

To be considered for the prize, all nomination packages must be received in the EERI office (499 14th Street, Ste. 320, Oakland, CA 94612, or eeri@eeri.org) by October 15, 2009. The Selection Committee will review the nominations and, if necessary, contact the nominator and references for further information. The recipient of the Shah Family Innovation Prize will be invited to receive the prize at the Awards Luncheon during the EERI Annual Meeting in San Francisco, February 2010.

Selection Committee

Chair: Andre Filiatrault, State University of New York, Buffalo
Rachel Davidson, University of Delaware, Newark
Rafael Sabelli, Walter P Moore, Los Angeles, California
Nicholas Sitar, University of California, Berkeley
Pane Stojanovski, Risk Management Solutions Inc., Newark, California