

Call for Nominations – RiboClub Blue Jacket Award

The Blue Jacket Award is the RiboClub's highest recognition for service by RNA scientists to the Canadian RNA community. It recognizes sustained and impactful contributions that have strengthened the RNA community and helped it to better achieve its goals in RNA research and education. Awardees participate as members of the RiboClub's Scientific Advisory Board. The award is conferred at the RiboClub's Opening Session in September 2026.

The RiboClub community recognizes the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion and the ongoing need for better representation of our community in the RiboClub's Scientific Advisory Board. Therefore, the RiboClub explicitly welcomes nominations of scientists, who are members of underrepresented groups including women.

Evaluation criteria:

The selection criteria for the Blue Jacket Award are the following:

1. exemplary service to the Canadian RNA community
2. sustained activity in support of the RNA research community
3. promotion of RNA research in Canada
4. contribution to the training, mentoring, and recruitment of RNA scientists

Eligibility:

All Canadian scientists, who study RNA and who are employed at a Canadian research or teaching institution, are eligible for the Blue Jacket Award.

Responsibilities:

In order to accept the award, the selected awardee must attend the RiboClub's Opening Session in September 2026. By accepting the award, Blue Jacket awardees agree to serve a term of five years as active members of the RiboClub Scientific Advisory Board with the possibility of renewal. Responsibilities include providing advice and feedback on the RiboClub Opening Session speaker selection, program, and related events. Active Blue Jackets will also solicit nominations for new awardees and select an awardee from among them.

Nomination process:

The RiboClub now invites nominations for the 2026 Blue Jacket Award to be submitted to bluejacket@riboclub.org by May 24, 2026. Both nominations by colleagues as well as self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations will be considered for a two-year period and can be up-dated in the second year of nominations.

Each nomination will contain:

1. A CV of the nominee
2. A letter of (self-)nomination that includes a paragraph explaining the contribution of the nominee to the Canadian RNA community and clearly address the selection criteria listed below (2 pages maximum)
3. A statement of the nominee expressing that they agree to the nomination, that they will attend the RiboClub's Opening Session if selected, and that they agree to the responsibilities associated with the award