

AWARDING THE ROBERT L'HERMITE MEDAL 2026

It is RILEM's objective to gather the most eminent specialists across the world in the fields of construction materials and structures. Aiming for excellence in all its activities, RILEM awards this recognised distinction annually.

The **Robert L'Hermite Medal** is awarded to a researcher of less than 40 years - not necessarily a member of the Association – who has performed high level scientific research in the field of construction materials and structures.

Jury Membership

The Jury to select the Robert L'Hermite Medalist is composed of:

1. The Chair of the Technical Activities Committee (TAC) (Chairperson)
2. The Editor in Chief of our scientific journal Materials & Structures (MS)
3. The Editor in Chief of RILEM Technical Letters (RTL)
4. Three experts appointed by the RILEM Bureau on the proposal of the TAC

The list of candidates is sent to the members of the Jury soon after submissions are received. Jury members will then identify conflict of interest cases (i.e. family, friends, collaborators, same institution etc.). Should such case(s) arise, the composition of the Jury will be revised at that time. The Jury will meet online and inform by email the Bureau members of RILEM of its selection.

Criteria

The following criteria apply to the candidates:

1. They must have performed high level scientific research in the field of construction materials and structures, preferably including one or more publications in Materials & Structures.
2. Their curriculum must show proof of research quality and productivity, research relevance and impact, leadership and service to the scientific community.
3. **They should be under the age of 40 years in 2025, born in 1986 or after.**
Extensions to the age limit may be granted in cases of documented career interruptions.

Eligible interruptions include, but are not limited to:

- Parental leave (gestational or non-gestational)
- Adoption leave
- Extended medical leave or treatment
- Time dedicated to the care of a seriously ill family member

Applicants must specify the exact duration of each interruption (e.g., "6 months parental leave in 2020") and provide a brief description of its impact on their career.

The total extension granted shall not exceed three years.

RILEM places full trust in applicants to report career interruptions fairly and accurately. Female applicants are particularly encouraged to make full use of this provision, as RILEM is strongly committed to promoting gender equity and actively supports the increased participation of women.

4. They should not have received the Gustavo Colonnetti medal in the 3 years preceding their application for the Robert L'Hermite medal as the honor cannot be awarded twice for the same work (e.g. to

apply for the **2026** L'Hermite medal, they should not have received the Colonnetti medal in the year **2023 or later**).

In its final selection, the Jury must state the specific field of research for which the candidate has been selected for the award and should emphasize the specific link with RILEM fields of activity and interest. This written summarized information should be used for notification through Materials & Structures, news on the RILEM Website, newsletter, and social media.

In keeping with RILEM overall quality strategy, it should be stressed that the candidate selected must truly merit the award for exceptional contributions to her/his field of research. If, for a given year, the Jury does not consider that any of the candidates meet this criterion, then it is possible not to award the Robert L'Hermite Medal for that year.

If two candidates have made truly remarkable presentations during the same year, then the Jury should notify the Bureau that the candidate not selected for the award in that year should be taken into consideration for the following year (if the age limit has not passed). This notification to the Bureau should be detailed by the Jury for direct use by the new Jury of the following year.

Privileges and duties of the Robert L'Hermite Medalist

Once the jury has chosen the L'Hermite medalist, the result is announced on RILEM's social networks. She/He is invited to give a lecture during the RILEM Annual Week following the nomination. This lecture, which should be in the theme for which the Medalist has been awarded, is recorded and uploaded on the RILEM YouTube channel. The laureate will be required to publish a paper related to the lecture, as an open access paper in an issue of RILEM journal Materials & Structures.

In case the laureate is not yet a RILEM individual member, the laureate will be offered a two-year free membership.

ANNEX: Jury and submission procedures for the 2026 Robert L'Hermite Medal

Deadline for having researchers submitting their evaluation package:

31st October 2025 at 12:00 U.T.C.

Mailing address for the evaluation package (only electronic submission is accepted):

j.hardy@rilem.org

Attention:

Mrs. Judith Hardy
RILEM Secretary General

Subject:

2026 RILEM MEDAL/name of the medal you are applying for

Evaluation package:

- ❑ **Curriculum Vitae: maximum ten pages, in bullet points style and PDF format:**
 - 1) **Personal Information:** Full name (clearly identify first name and family name), gender, contact details, and current affiliation.
 - 2) **Education:** List of degrees with dates, institutions, country, and significant academic honors.
 - 3) **Research / Professional / Industry Experience:** List relevant positions (position, institution, country, duration), include where relevant, leadership roles in research, projects, and collaborations.

- 4) **Awards and Honors:** Recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of materials science and engineering.
 - 5) **Membership and Service Contributions:** Involvement in scientific organizations (including RILEM), leadership in conferences, committees, editorial boards, or other professional activities.
 - 6) **Collaborations and Partnerships:** If applicable, mention any interdisciplinary collaborations or partnerships with industry, government, or other research organizations that have contributed to advancing knowledge in construction materials.
 - 7) **Regarding the age criteria** and if appropriate, a short mention of circumstances that may have caused a delay of a scientific career should be made.
 - 8) **3 references** (non-necessarily members of RILEM) that might be contacted by the Jury, including full names, affiliation and email address.
- ❑ **Publications, Presentations, and Patents: concise list, in PDF format, of key publications or patents that have advanced knowledge in the field.**
 - 1) **Key Publications:** Include peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book chapters, conference papers, presentations (i.e. invited, plenary, keynote, conference) that have significantly advanced understanding or practice in construction materials or related fields. Make a clear distinction between the different types of publications.
State the **supervisors'** names with underlining and bold formatting, and the names of the **supervised individuals** with bold formatting only.
 - 2) **Patents:** List patents granted for new technologies, techniques, or processes that have contributed to the field. Highlight patents with industrial or commercial relevance, particularly those that have been applied or licensed. If applicable, include the patent title, patent number, and the year it was granted to provide full reference details.
Distinguish the inventor's name by using underlining and bold formatting, and the name of any co-inventors by using bold formatting only.
 - ❑ **Statement: maximum six pages, in PDF format, of 3-5 most significant professional (research and or industry) contributions, and most significant leadership roles (including involvement in RILEM if applicable). This statement shall explain why the data reported in the CV are significant.**
If the candidates were awarded the Colonnetti Medal four or more years prior to their application for the Robert L'Hermite Medal, they should:
 - briefly state the field / achievements of what was awarded for their Colonnetti Medal, and the year of award, and,
 - articulate the relatively recent scientific direction, and the corresponding recent scientific/research/professional contributions, and achievements.

This statement is necessary to ensure that the same/similar achievements of the candidate are not honored twice.
 - ❑ **RILEM medal application Excel file completed** (L'Hermite and Colonnetti medals application file)
 - ❑ **Portrait photo** of the candidate (Jpeg photograph)