

# 2026 Rising Stars of Light

Rising Stars of Light event is a worldwide campaign for the most shining young scientists in optics-related fields. The event is initiated by journal *Light: Science & Applications*, and co-organized by journal *eLight*, journal *Light: Advanced Manufacturing* and iCANX. The event has been hosted for 8 years, and attracted 1 million audiences. This year, Rising Stars of Light will be run in two tracks: Faculty Track, Before Faculty Track (Postdoc & PhD Candidate), the event is highlighted by UNESCO's International Day of Light.



# Committee Members

## Committee of Faculty Track



Chair, Aydogan Ozcan, University of California, Los Angeles, Chancellor's Professor, Fellow of National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Inventors



Co-Chair, Mordechai (Moti) Segev, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Robert J. Shillman Distinguished Professor, Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Co-Chair, Lan Yang, Washington University in St. Louis, Edwin H. & Florence G. Skinner Professor, Fellow of National Academy of Inventors



Co-Chair, Xiangang Luo, Institute of Optics and Electronics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chair Professor and President, Fellow of Chinese Academy of Engineering

Co-Chair, Miles Padgett, University of Glasgow, Kelvin Chair of Natural Philosophy, Fellow of the Royal Society (UK's national academy)



## Committee of Before Faculty Track



Co-Chair, Mark Brongersma, Stanford University, Stephen Harris Professor



Co-Chair, Na Liu, University of Stuttgart, Professor



Co-Chair, Shuang Zhang, University of Hong Kong, Chair Professor



Co-Chair, Mona Jarrahi, University of California, Los Angeles, Professor and Northrop Grumman Endowed Chair



Co-Chair, Igor Aharonovich, University of Technology Sydney, Professor

## Host



Dr. Lingyan Shi, University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor



Dr. Haoning Tang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Assistant Professor



Dr. Chenzi Guo, Deputy Head of Light Publishing Group, Director of eLight & Editor of Light: Science & Applications

## Qualifications and How to Apply for 2026 Rising Stars of Light

### A) Faculty Track

1. An applicant needs to be an assistant/associate/full professor in universities or a research fellow in institutions, and should be under 40 (born after 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 1986).
2. An applicant needs to be nominated by a senior professor, the nominator should send the reference letter (in English) to [light\\_isa@lightpublishing.cn](mailto:light_isa@lightpublishing.cn).
3. An applicant needs to email the below documents to [light\\_isa@lightpublishing.cn](mailto:light_isa@lightpublishing.cn) with the subject of 'Name\_Institution\_2026 Rising Stars of Light':
  - a) Optics-related scientific accomplishments in the past five years (no more than 600 words in English) and brief future research plan (no more than 300 words in English)
  - b) No more than 5 representative publications and/or patents.
  - c) Short bio (no more than 500 words in English)
4. Application Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026

### B) Before Faculty Track

1. An applicant needs to be a Postdoc or Ph.D. candidate when applying.
2. An applicant needs to be nominated by a senior professor, the nominator should send the reference letter (in English) to [light\\_isa@lightpublishing.cn](mailto:light_isa@lightpublishing.cn).
3. An applicant needs to email the below documents to [light\\_isa@lightpublishing.cn](mailto:light_isa@lightpublishing.cn) with the subject of 'Name\_Institution\_2026 Rising Stars of Light':
  - a) Optics-related scientific accomplishments in the past five years (no more than 600 words in English) and brief future research plan (no more than 300 words in English)
  - b) No more than 5 representative publications and/or patents.
  - c) Short bio (no more than 500 words in English)
  - d) A short video of the personal statement of his/her research career and major scientific achievements (no more than 1 minute, presented in English).
4. Application Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026

## 2026 Rising Stars of Light Selection Process

1. Candidates' selection by the Committee: 12 finalists (6 from each track) will be selected and announced at iCANX and on the homepage of Light: Science & Applications on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026. The finalists can each enjoy one coupon of waiving publication fee in Light: Science & Applications or eLight or Light: Advanced Manufacturing at their own choices (valid until 2028).

2. Presentation campaign at iCANX: Rising Stars of Light finalists will each give a 15 minutes academic report at the 'iCANX', followed by 8 min Q&A time: the committee will rate finalists based on innovation (40%), impact (30%), and performance (30%).

Faculty Track on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov: 5 am (UTC), 0am (New York), 5am (London), 13 pm (Beijing), 16pm (Sydney)

Before Faculty track on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov: 12pm (UTC), 7am (New York), 12pm (London), 20pm (Beijing), 23pm (Sydney)

The below awards will be presented on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov right after Before Faculty track:

Rising Stars of Light Winners: Faculty Track (3 person, 1500USD before tax), Before Faculty Track (3 person, 1500USD before tax)

Rising Stars of Light Candidates: Faculty Track (3 person), Before Faculty Track (3 person)