

Release Date: 9 Oct, 2026

Finalists: 2026 Rising Stars of Light



We'd like to first thank all of the nominators and applicants for their strong support. After careful selection by the Committee, we congratulate the finalists as below:

Faculty Track (in alphabetical order):

Yang Chen, University of Science and Technology of China, China

Luka Dordevic, Università di Padova, Italy

Peijun Guo, Yale University, USA

Beibei Li, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Ofer Neufeld, Technion- Israel Institute of Technology, Israel

Nathan Youngblood, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Di Zhu, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Note: due to equal average grades by committee, 7 finalists have been selected

Before Faculty Track (in alphabetical order):

Haojing Chen, California Institute of Technology, USA

Shiqi Chen, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Siddharth Doshi, Stanford University, USA

Amit Kam, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel

Seokwoo Kim, Pohang University of Science and Technology, Korea

Junyin Zhang, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

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



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

