



The U.S. Sections of The Combustion Institute (USSCI) is pleased to seek nominations for the **2027 U.S. Early Career Combustion Investigator Award**, which recognizes the contributions of an early career combustion investigator from within the United States. This prestigious award is presented biannually at the U.S. National Combustion Meeting, during which the recipient presents the **Early Career Investigator Plenary Lecture**. The award recognizes excellence in combustion research, the potential for future leadership in the field, and the service to the combustion community. The 2027 U.S. Early Career Combustion Investigator Award will be presented at the **15th U.S. National Combustion Meeting** to be held in Boulder, Colorado, May 24–26, 2027.

Eligibility Requirements and Nomination Process:

To be eligible to be nominated, a candidate must be a member of one of the three U.S. Sections of The Combustion Institute and must have the primary appointment at an institution in the United States. At the time of the nomination due date, the nominee must be an early career investigator, defined as being within 10 years of their terminal degree. Nominations should be submitted by a member of one of the U.S. sections of The Combustion Institute. Self-nominations are not accepted. In addition to academia, nominations of candidates within industry and government are strongly encouraged. Each nominator can nominate only one candidate. The nomination package must include a nomination letter (max 2-page PDF file) and the nominee's CV (max 10-page PDF file) highlighting contributions to the field of combustion, including publications, grants, and service to the combustion community. The awardee must be willing and available in person to give the *Early Career Investigator Plenary Lecture* at the subsequent U.S. National Combustion Meeting. In addition to a waived conference registration fee, the awardee will receive an honorarium of \$2,000.

Selection Criteria and Conflict-of-Interest Policy:

Selection criteria will include demonstrated research excellence and impact to date, the potential for future leadership in the combustion field, and service to the combustion community. Nomination evaluations are handled by the U.S. Early Career Combustion Investigator Award Committee, composed of members from the executive boards of all three U.S. sections of The Combustion Institute. No member of the award committee may nominate a candidate. If a nominee is a former Ph.D. student, former postdoc or research staff member, or member of the same institution as an award committee member, that member will not participate in the award selection process.

Timeline:

Dec 14, 2026 - Nominations due by email to Waruna Kulatilaka, Awards Committee Chair & Vice-Chair of the USSCI, at waruna.kulatilaka@tamu.edu (Email Subject: USSCI Early Career Award Nomination: Nominee Name).

Mid-January, 2027 - Selection of the awardee by the U.S. Early Career Combustion Investigator Award Committee, and the awardee being notified in a timely manner.

May 24–26, 2027 - Award announcement and the *Early Career Investigator Plenary Lecture* at the 15th U.S. National Combustion Meeting.