THE SHAW PRIZE
邵逸夫獎

FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANKIND

ASTRONOMY | LIFE SCIENCE & MEDICINE | MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

About the Prize

The Shaw Prize is an international award to honour individuals, regardless of race, nationality, gender and religious belief, who are currently active in their respective fields and who have recently achieved distinguished and significant advances, who have made outstanding contributions in academic and scientific research. The Shaw Prize is dedicated to furthering societal progress, enhancing quality of life, and enriching humanity's spiritual civilisation.

The Shaw Prize consists of three annual awards, namely the Prize in Astronomy, the Prize in Life Science and Medicine, and the Prize in Mathematical Sciences. Each prize carries a monetary award, which has been set at of one million two hundred thousand US dollars since 2016.

Since 2004, the Shaw Prize has recognized over a hundred exceptional individuals who have made groundbreaking contributions to their respective fields, many of whom have gone on to receive other prestigious international awards. The Shaw Prize Foundation has also taken a proactive role in advancing scientific literacy through a range of engaging activities, including lectures, public forums, exhibitions, and other outreach programmes, in partnership with esteemed local and international universities and institutions.

The Shaw Prize

THE PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY

Astronomy has experienced tremendous growth and development during the past fifty years as the entire electromagnetic spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays was opened to investigation. Remarkable progress has been achieved in our understanding of the origin and evolution of the universe; the structure and dynamics of galaxies; the birth, life, and death of stars and stellar systems; and the formation and ubiquity of planetary systems. The names of exotic objects such as supernovae, quasars, pulsars, and black holes have entered the public lexicon, and have captured the imagination of people, young and old, all over the world.

A new golden age of astronomy can be expected in the twenty-first century as the research tools of the more traditional disciplines are brought to bear on the great astronomical problems, and as novel windows are opened to the universe, using neutrinos and gravitational radiation to explore extreme configurations of matter and energy not accessible to terrestrial laboratories.

THE PRIZE IN LIFE SCIENCE & MEDICINE

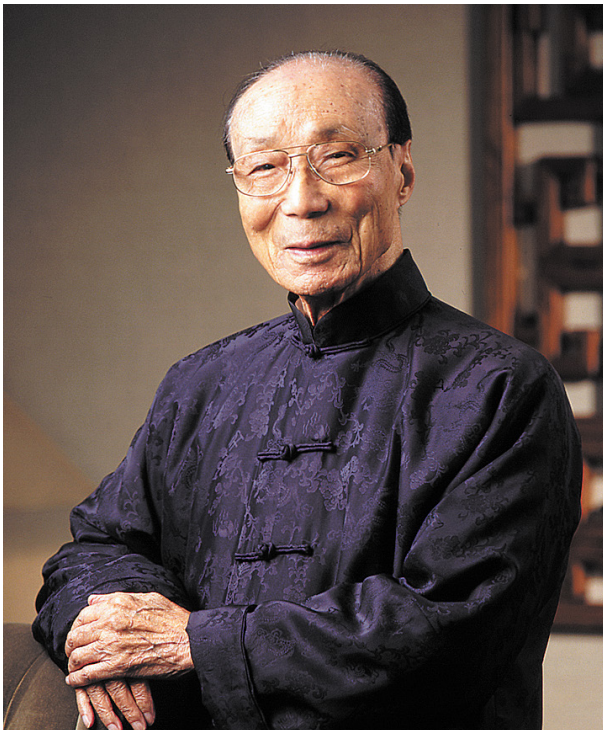
Discoveries in the biomedical sciences and innovations in clinical medicine have led to significant victories in our longstanding war against disease and suffering. With the mapping of the entire human genome, we are now closer to the understanding of the mechanisms of life, aging, illness and death, opening up exciting new opportunities for advances in therapeutics. Novel insights in the life science and technological advances in medicine will result in better health and an improved quality of life for the human race in the new century.

THE PRIZE IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Mathematics is the basic language of all natural sciences and all modern technology. In the twentieth century mathematics made tremendous strides both in opening new frontiers and in solving important and difficult old problems. Its influence permeates every creative scientific and technological discipline, and extends into the social science.

With the developments in computer science, information technology, and statistics in the twentieth century, the importance of mathematics to humankind will be further enhanced in the twenty-first century.

The Founder

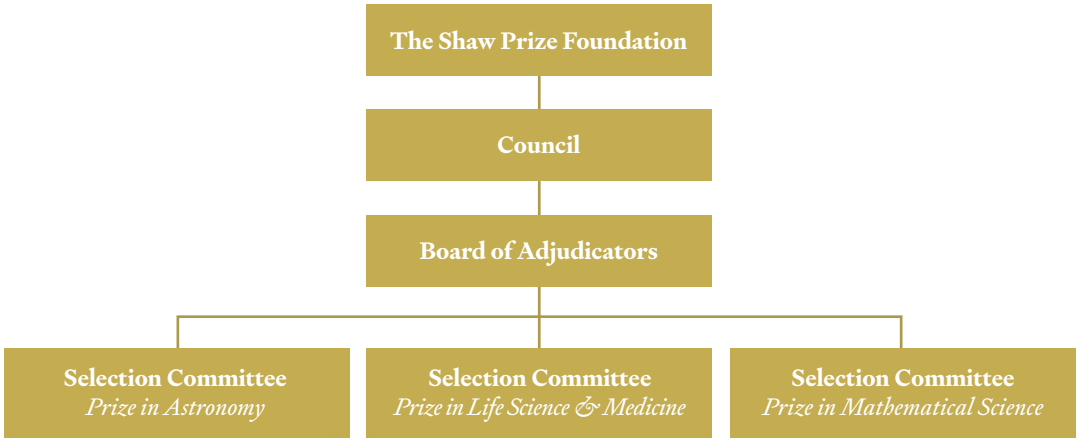


Mr Run Run Shaw (1907–2014), born in China in 1907, was a native of Ningbo County, Zhejiang Province. He joined his brother's film company in China in the 1920s. During the 1950s he founded the film company Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Limited in Hong Kong. He was one of the founding members of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) launched in Hong Kong in 1967. As an established figure in the film and media industry, Mr Shaw gained insight into the needs of the people, and as a visionary he saw how, in addition to the fleeting escapism of entertainment, the more substantial benefits of education and healthcare would greatly impact lives for the better. He established two charities: The Shaw Foundation Hong Kong and The Sir Run Run Shaw Charitable Trust, both dedicated to the promotion of education, scientific and technological research, medical and welfare services, and culture and the arts.

The Shaw Foundation quickly gained momentum in a wide range of philanthropic work: supporting educational institutions as well as hospitals and clinics in Hong Kong, the rest of China and beyond. Expanding his vision into new areas convinced him that the quest for knowledge is key to sustaining the advancement of civilisation, and strengthened his belief that scientists focused on unmasking the mysteries of nature are pivotal to the well-being of humankind. He decided to use his influence, with the unfailing support of his wife Mrs Mona Shaw, by establishing The Shaw Prize to inspire and recognise imaginative individuals committed to scientific research and to highlight their discoveries. The Award continues to gain in stature, casting a beam of recognition on outstanding scientific achievements, and firing the imagination of future pioneers to emulate him in spirit and in deed, sustaining the continued success of The Shaw Foundation and The Shaw Prize Foundation as lasting tributes not only to Mr Shaw's wisdom and generosity, but also to the persevering commitment undertaken by Mrs Shaw.

Structure

The Shaw Prize is managed and administered by The Shaw Prize Foundation, with a four-tier organisation.



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Prize in Life Science & Medicine

Prize in Mathematical Sciences

**For the members' list, please refer to the next page*

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Nomination

Nomination to the Shaw Prize is by invitation only. The Board of Adjudicators of the Shaw Prize shall determine the Nominators for each prize and all nominations, whether in preparation by Nominators or adjudication by the Selection Committees shall be kept strictly confidential.

The nomination process begins in September every year, the winners to be announced in the summer and the prizes presented in autumn in the following year.

Contact Us

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