

The Danish Women in Physics network (KIF) inaugurated a talent prize in 2010. The purpose was to recognize the achievements of able and talented young female physicists and to further support them in their career development. The KIF talent prize thus highlights highly talented individuals, but equally important, the talent prize also serves as an accelerator for mainstreaming in physics and highlights the importance of role models for younger talented women physicists.

The 2010 Women in Physics talent prize winner was Lotte Holmegaard, a laser physicist from Aarhus University, now working at DESY in Hamburg. Later in 2010 Lotte Holmegaard was awarded the Lundbeck Foundation talent prize to a researcher below the age of 30 years. The first Women in Physics talent prize exemplifies the excellence associated with this award and sets standards for future Women in Physics talent prize winners.

The KIF mandate specifies scientific originality, successful dissemination of research results and an extraordinary teaching portfolio as discriminators in the selection process. The committee takes note of these qualifiers together with the potential for further development, based upon past performance and achievements at the highest international level, a particular independent effort, ability to navigate and orient oneself in complex scientific environments and, finally, a clearly expressed drive for excellence.

KIF has received 6 nominations for the KIF 2011 talent prize. These 6 nominations represent a full spectrum of modern physics ranging from cosmology, supercooled liquids to optical and laser physics and microsystems. All 6 nominees have accomplished great achievements in their early career steps. Several of the nominees have achieved their results and at the same time established families, which deserve mentioning. Several of the nominees have strong teaching profiles in addition to an already clearly visible independent scientific profile. Thus the committee has faced a challenging task in selecting the award winner. The committee notes, that the high level set by the 2010 first year KIF talent prize, will be met also in 2011.

The committee recommends that

The KIF 2011 talent prize goes to Tina Hecksher (TH), a soft condensed matter physicist working with supercooled liquids. TH's research area concerns the properties of supercooled liquids, spanning several different areas of physics like visco-elastic mechanical properties and non-linear temporal- and temperature relaxation studies of dielectric response. The work comprises advanced experimental work as well as original theoretical studies of complex supercooled liquids.

Citation: Tina Hecksher is awarded the KIF 2010 talent prize for original work in understanding the dynamics of supercooled liquids. In particular that the best available data cannot confirm previously believed dynamic divergences in ultraviscous molecular liquids questioning the widespread belief that a glass ceases to flow below its transition temperature. Tina Hecksher's studies decisively advance an old research field, where many aspects of the behavior of glass-forming liquids still remain elusive.

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