



17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Mercury as a Global Pollutant

4th - 9th OCTOBER 2026

ICMGP 2026 - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kathryn R. Mahaffey Lifetime Achievement Award in Mercury Research

CLOSING DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2026

The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Scientific Steering Committee of the 17th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP 2026) to be held in October 2026, in Hyderabad, India, will be making a call for nominations for the Kathryn R. Mahaffey Lifetime Achievement Award in Mercury Research. This prestigious award was established in 2011 to celebrate and recognize selected individuals who have made extraordinary lifetime achievements in mercury research, mentoring, and/or contributions to governmental policy and public outreach, at regional, national and international levels.

Dr. Kathryn R. Mahaffey passed away in 2009. Her career embodied all that this award is meant to honor: scholarly research on global mercury issues that met the highest scientific standards, greatly enhanced understanding of mercury as a pollutant, and support of public health protection globally. Dr. Mahaffey was a prolific writer, including the scientific literature, but also understood the importance of dissemination of her work to the broader global community of non-governmental organizations, regulators and the general public. She was a model for scientific integrity, reporting her scientific findings even when the results were unpopular. Those who worked with Dr. Mahaffey knew her as thoughtful and kind, as well as someone with great intellect and tenacity.

The Award

The handcrafted crystal award was created in memory of Dr. Mahaffey and her dedication to advancing public health through research on mercury in the environment. She is remembered as a timeless intellect and a rare scientist who used academic research to aid the development of public policy and to protect human health.

The design of the award represents the multi-faceted nature of mercury research, anchored in both the physical environment and human health. The crystal wraps around a symbolic mercury drop to evoke the protective embrace of Dr. Mahaffey's legacy. The fluid form of the award captures the mobility of mercury in aquatic environments, while the clear crystal represents the atmosphere, the dominant medium for mercury transport. The natural granite base calls to mind the foundation of mercury research in the geologic sciences and the substantial grounding of our present knowledge in the research conducted by each recipient of this award.

The Kathryn R Mahaffey Lifetime Achievement Award was first established by Dr Alexandra Steffen (Canada) and others at the 10th ICMGP held in Halifax, Canada in 2011. The recipient will receive this handcrafted crystal Lifetime Achievement Award that is transferred between Award recipients at each conference, as well as an award from the host country as a keepsake. Source: <http://mercury2011.org/>

In keeping with the tradition of prior conferences, the recipient of this Kathryn R. Mahaffey Lifetime Achievement Award in Mercury Research will be announced and celebrated at the 17th ICMGP.

The ICGMP Executive Committee shall, in conjunction with the Scientific Steering Committee, advertise the call for nominations for this prestigious award. All nominees are expected to have made contributions to global mercury research and policy, not only regional issues.

Award created in memory of Dr. Kathryn Mahaffey (Source: <http://mercury2011.org/>).

ALL NOMINATION PACKAGES ARE TO BE:

- Addressed to : **ICMGP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- Subject : **MAHAFFEY LAA NOMINATION: < NOMINATION NAME & SURNAME >**
- Emailed to : secretariat@icmgp2026india.com with copy to asif@ce.iith.ac.in and jagannath.biswakarma@bristol.ac.uk
- Closing Date : **February 15, 2026 (hard deadline)**

INFORMATION REGARDING THE MAHAFFEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND THE SELECTION PROCESS

PART A: NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAHAFFEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

1. Selection Criteria for Nomination:

- 1.1 The nominee must be internationally recognized for scientific contributions in mercury research.
- 1.2 Multiple groups may nominate an individual, but the review committee will consider multiple nominations as a bundled package for the candidate. Nominees will be reviewed based on the body of their lifetime contributions on international scholarship, global public policy and outreach, and mentoring pertaining to mercury, rather than the number of nominations. The candidate should have a commitment and track record of mentoring new mercury researchers.
- 1.3 The nominee's research should have had a demonstrable impact on government policy and public outreach on mercury science or management at an international level.
- 1.4 Nominees must be living at the time of nomination.
- 1.5 Individuals or groups submitting or evaluating nominations are expected to maintain the confidentiality of the nomination and Selection Processes.

2. Requirements of the Nomination Package:

- The Nomination Package shall include:
 - 2.1 **A Cover Letter (400 word maximum), inclusive of the nominee's Biography**, summarizing the **key accomplishments** of the nominee as per the above-mentioned criteria, including **a clear statement as to why the nominee is deserving of this award**. Note: The Biography will be used to showcase the Awardee's work on the ICMGP conference website.
 - 2.2 **A Nomination Submission (3000 word maximum)**, highlighting and summarizing the life-long accomplishments of the nominee that are internationally recognized, including a clear statement as to why the nominee is deserving of the award with supporting detail on the individual's scholarly contributions, mentorship and contributions to global policy, public outreach and any other significantly related activities.
 - 2.3 **A Curriculum Vitae of the nominee** must be provided which includes:
 - 2.3.1 The nominee's history of employment;
 - 2.3.2 A list of peer-reviewed publications;
 - 2.3.3 A list of other scientific contributions and awards (e.g., prior recognitions of excellence, conference communications, technical reports, professional presentations, assessment reports);
 - 2.3.4 A list of relevant professional service activities, including committees, reports, testimony, briefings, public lectures, educational and other activities.
 - 2.4 **A recent color Photograph of the nominee**, which will be used to showcase the Awardee on the ICMGP conference website.

- 2.5 **An indication of Acceptance and Approval of the Nomination by the nominee**, that their **Photograph and Biography** can be showcased on the ICMGP conference website.
- 2.6 All nominations must be written in English.
- 2.7 Please Note: This award shall not be posthumous.

3. What comes with the KR Mahaffey Lifetime Achievement Award?

- The recognition of the Mahaffey LAA Awardee (“the Winner”) shall be made at a time in the program of ICMGP 2026 that allows the broadest audience possible, as this is important to maximize the exposure of the awardee’s work and vision to the mercury community.
- The prestigious Mahaffey LAA shall be **awarded at the Opening Ceremony of the ICMGP**, immediately following the awarding of the Emerging Researcher Award.
- The Mahaffey LAA Awardee shall be required to deliver a **20-min presentation** at the Opening Ceremony, to highlight their accomplishments at the ICMGP. A total time of **30-min shall be reserved** for this Mahaffey LAA Oral Presentation, of which **10 min shall be allotted to Questions** and Answers.
- The ICMGP Executive Committee shall provide the **Mahaffey LAA Awardee with a handcrafted crystal Lifetime Achievement Award** that is transferred between Award recipients at each conference, as well as an award from the host country, as a keepsake.
- The ICMGP Executive Committee and organizers shall **provide complimentary ICMGP Conference Registration** (and ICMGP Workshop Registrations, if applicable) and **book/reimburse the Awardee travel** (at economy class rates) to India, as well as **accommodation** close to where the conference is to be held.
- Plus, any additional incentives, as may be deemed relevant by the ICMGP Executive Committee.