

ACM SIGIR Annual Business Meeting 2025: Secretary's Notes

Bhaskar Mitra
ACM SIGIR
Canada
`bhaskar.mitra@acm.org`

1 Opening Matters

The 2025 SIGIR Annual Business Meeting took place as an in-person event during the 48th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval in Padua, Italy on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. The business meeting was led by the new chair of the SIGIR Executive Committee (EC) and General Chair for SIGIR 2025 conference, Nicola Ferro.

The meeting started with an introduction of the new EC (whose term runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028): Nicola Ferro (chair), Yi Zhang (vice-chair), Bhaskar Mitra (secretary), Chirag Shah (treasurer), and Vanessa Murdock (past chair). Nicola thanked the outgoing EC—Vanessa Murdock (chair), Ryen White (vice-chair), Laura Dietz (secretary), Carsten Eickhof (treasurer) and Ben Carterette (past chair)—for their work over the past three years.

Nicola thanked the rest of the conference organizers of SIGIR'25 for planning this event, including the other General Chairs and the rest of the Organization Chairs, the Program Chairs and the rest of the Scientific Chairs, the Program Committee (PC) members, the student volunteers, the rest of the organization team, and the SIGIR community members who participated in and attended the conference. The SIGIR'25 General Chairs were: Nicola Ferro (University of Padua, Italy), Maria Maistro (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), and Gabriella Pasi (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy); and the Program Chairs were: Omar Alonso (Amazon, USA), Andrew Trotman (University of Otago, New Zealand), and Suzan Verberne (Leiden University, The Netherlands). Overall, SIGIR'25 conference organization involved 30 organization chairs, 16 local organization team, and 19 student volunteers. The scientific program was put together with the help of 30 scientific chairs, 44 area chairs, 145 senior PC members, 1,101 PC members, and 369 sub-reviewers. The conference was attended by 1,000+ community members from 50+ countries.

Nicola emphasized the critical role played by SIGIR volunteers. Table 1 lists the current ACM SIGIR volunteers at the time of the SIGIR'25 conference.¹ A call was announced for Forum Editors, DEI Chairs, and many of the other above volunteer positions where the term for current volunteers are coming to end.

¹The full list of ACM SIGIR EC members and volunteers is available here: <https://sigir.org/general-information/officers-and-volunteers/>

Table 1. ACM SIGIR Volunteers at the time of the SIGIR’25 conference.

Volunteer positions	Current volunteers
Academy Chairs	Yoelle Maarek (Technology Innovation Institute, UAE) Marc Najork (Google DeepMind, USA)
Awards Chairs	Mark Sanderson (RMIT University, Australia) Hamed Zamani (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Chair	Hussein Suleman (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
Early Career Researcher Awards Chair	James Allan (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)
Forum Editors	Tirthankar Ghosal (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA) Josiane Mothe (Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse, France) Julián Urbano (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)
Information Director	Joel MacKenzie (The University of Queensland, Australia)
Student Affairs Chairs	Qingyao Ai (Tsinghua University, China) Maria Maistro (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Student Travel Award Chair	Sole Pera (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)
Sustainability Chairs	Tetsuya Sakai (Waseda University, Japan) Paul Thomas (Microsoft Bing, Australia)
Women in IR Chair	Gabriella Pasi (Universita’ degli studi di Milano, Italy)
Historian	Donna K. Harman (National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA)

2 Treasurer’s Report

The new ACM SIGIR Treasurer Chirag Shah presented a report on SIGIR’s finances for fiscal year 2025 (FY25) that ended on June 30th, 2025. Not all conferences have closed yet, so expenses and revenue for FY25 are based on data up to March 2025 and additional projections. Revenue and Expenses, represented by the red and the green lines in Figure 1, have roughly matched each other over the last several years.

Similar to past years, the yearly expenses are dominated by grants, that includes student travel grants. SIGIR has been increasing grant giving to encourage more student participation in the community. Expenses related to awards have also been higher in FY25 because of the Salton Award last year and for supporting other new awards that SIGIR has been implementing. SIGIR expenses also include support for regional and international events in the IR community (*e.g.*, GenIR, ASIRF, Mots/Machines, CLEF, FIRE, CORIA-TALN, ESSIR) via the “SIGIR & Friends” Program, regional SIGIR Chapters, and SIGIR conference- collocated events (*e.g.*, Women in IR, DEI, and Student Party). Miscellaneous expenses have also gone up during FY25 due to increase in cost for DEI and student events at the conference last year. With respect to income, our big drivers are conferences and the digital library. We are down in revenue in FY25, one contributing reason being the conference last year. As we go into the new ACM Open Access model, we will have to watch how that impacts the revenue from the digital library in coming years. Please see Figure 2 for a breakdown of SIGIR’s income and expenses over the last several years.

ACM SIGIR also has stakes in several related conferences. This includes SIGIR (the conference), SIGIR-AP, CHIIR, ICTIR, CIKM (50%, co-funded by SIGWEB), AFIRM (50%, co-funded

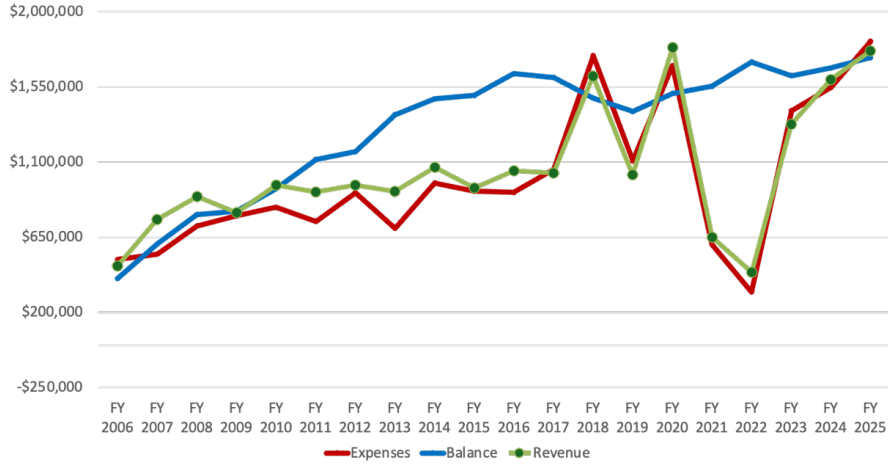


Figure 1. SIGIR’s finances over recent years. Expenses indicates current expenses such as travel grants and conference underwriting. Revenue indicates the available funds reflecting income growth.

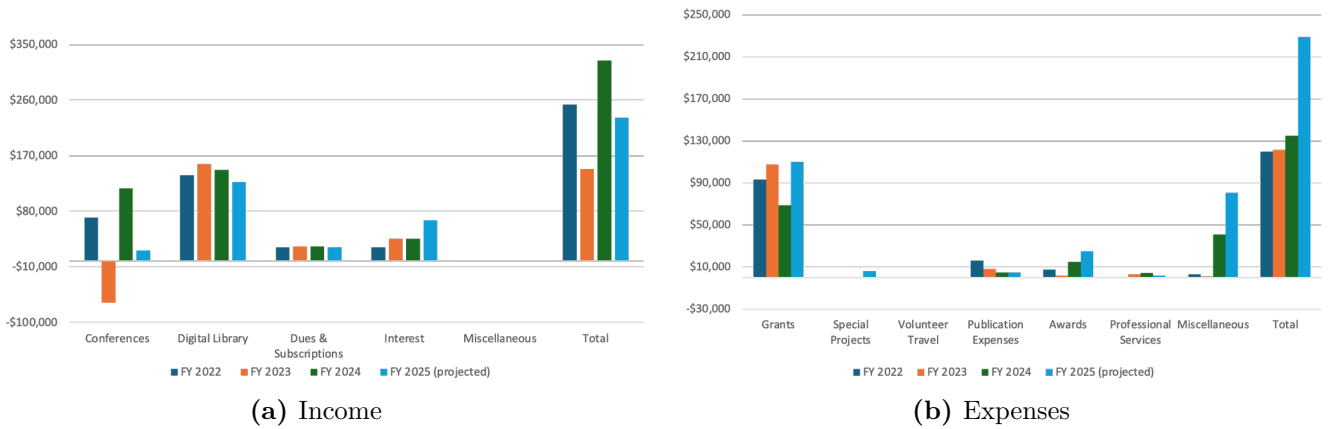


Figure 2. Breakdown of SIGIR’s income and expenses over recent years.

with SIGKDD), JCDL (50% co-funded with SIGWEB), and WSDM (25%, co-funded by SIGKDD, SIGWEB, and SIGMOD). Please see Figure 3 for a breakdown of income and expenses for SIGIR sponsored conferences over the last several years. The schedules for upcoming ACM SIGIR sponsored events are listed in Table 2.

Overall, SIGIR memberships are stable, but conference organization costs are going up, including A/V costs for hybrid settings and catering. The ACM SIGIR budget continues to be healthy.

3 SIGIR Virtual Forum

Launched in 2023, Suzan Verberne (Leiden University), Ayah Soufan (strathclyde University), and Ebrahim Bagheri (Toronto Metropolitan University) are leading this initiative to hold series of virtual community events. The goal is to extend the reach and engagement of the SIGIR community

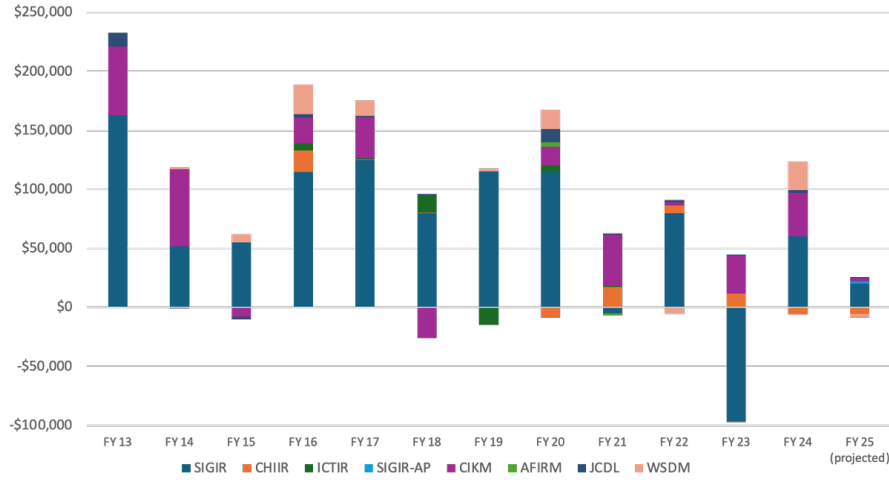


Figure 3. SIGIR (co-)sponsored conference income over recent years.

Table 2. Upcoming ACM SIGIR sponsored events.

Event	Location	Dates
CIKM 2025	Seoul, Korea	November 10-14, 2025
SIGIR-AP 2025	Xi'an, China	December 7-10, 2025
JDCL 2025	Virtual	December 15-19, 2025
WSDM 2026	Boise, USA	February 22-26, 2026
CHIIR 2026	Seattle, USA	March 22-26, 2026
CIKM 2026	Rome, Italy	October 26-30, 2026
ICTIR 2026	Melbourne, Australia	July, 2026 (co-located with SIGIR)

in a sustainable and accessible way. This includes researchers, students, and practitioners who may not be able to physically attend the SIGIR events otherwise because of travel restrictions, financial limitations, family obligations, and others.

Each event is designed to complement the current annual in-person activities with regularly recurring one-hour long meetings. These meetings are designed to maximize interaction with other community members and stimulate research-oriented discussions. These meetings can be about topical discussions, panels with well-known researchers, student sessions, mentorship, conference tutorials, as well as multi-lingual exchanges. All events are conducted twice to accommodate participants across global time zones, ensuring wide accessibility. All sessions are recorded and made publicly available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@SIGIRVirtualForum>. SIGIR community members are strongly encouraged to volunteer to speak, organize, or help with logistics of the virtual forum.

Special initiatives under the SIGIR Virtual Forum in FY25 include:

Lean and Learn Series. This series focused on theoretically grounded yet highly practical tools that are shaping the future of IR research. Topics included emerging paradigms such as quantum information retrieval (IR) and reasoning with large

language models (LLMs). The goal was to lower the barrier to entry for complex yet impactful ideas, helping early-career researchers engage with cutting-edge developments.

Best Paper Award Series. This series comprised of in-depth presentations and discussions with authors of award-winning papers from SIGIR. These sessions offered unique insights into the research challenges, methodologies, and innovations behind some of the most influential work in our field.

4 SIGIR Conferences

SIGIR 2026: Melbourne, Australia. The next SIGIR conference will be held on July 20–24, 2026 in Melbourne, Australia with General Chairs Alistair Moffat (University of Melbourne) and Falk Scholer (RMIT University). The Program Committee Chairs will be Hannah Bast (University of Freiburg, Germany), Marc Najork (Google DeepMind, USA), and Min Zhang (Tsinghua University, China). Local Arrangements Committee include Lida Rashidi, Damiano Spina, and Johanne Trippas (all from RMIT University). The conference will be hosted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

SIGIR 2027: Silicon Valley, USA. The SIGIR 2027 is revealed to be in Silicon Valley, USA with General Chairs Yi Zhang (University of California), Yi Fang (Santa Clara University), and Chenyan Xiong (Carnegie Mellon University).

Bids for SIGIR 2028. Bids are encouraged from the Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. The following bids were presented:

Vienna, Austria. Presented by Ingo Frommholz (MODUL University Vienna).

5 Special Topic: “Open Science” by Yannis Ioannidis

Yannis Ioannidis, ACM President, was in attendance at SIGIR’25 conference and gave a presentation on the topic of “Open Science” touching upon the new ACM Open Access model.²

Following Ioannidis’s presentation, there were questions and comments from the audience about ACM Open Access. A concern was raised about ACM’s finances citing a Communications of the ACM article³ published last year that reported that ACM’s net income has been on average ten million USD for the past 5 years and in FY2022 ACM had total assets of 211 million USD. Another SIGIR community member in the audience pointed out that at both ACL and NeurIPS publication and access to articles are both free, and urged the ACM President to move to a similar arrangement (termed “Diamond Open Access”) as soon as possible for the benefit of the IR community. Further concerns were raised about what fraction of the IR community would be impacted by this new model of pay-to-publish and might choose to transition away from SIGIR to ACL, NeurIPS, and other publication venues.

²<https://www.acm.org/publications/openaccess>

³<https://cacm.acm.org/opinion/acm-profits-considered-harmful/>

6 Awards

At SIGIR’25, all awards and recognitions were announced and presented during the conference banquet. However, we include them in these notes in keeping with the business meeting notes from previous years. Please see <https://sigir.org/awards/> for a full list of SIGIR awards and past awardees.

Best Reviewer Awards. Program Committee (PC) members play critical role in curating the scientific program for the conference and ensuring responsible scientific practices within the field. SIGIR’25 recognized these contributions by awarding *Best PC Member* awards to: *Adam Roegiest* (Zuva, Canada), *Alberto Veneri* (Domyn, Italy), *An Zhang* (University of Science and Technology of China, China), *Bogeu Choi* (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA), *Claudio Pomo* (Politecnico di Bari, Italy), *David Losada* (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain), *Debas Ganguly* (University of Glasgow, UK), *Ferdinand Schlatt* (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany), *Guglielmo Faggioli* (University of Padova, Italy), *Junichi Tatemura* (Google, USA), *Kazutoshi Umemoto* (University of Tokyo, Japan), *Luke Gallagher* (University of Melbourne, Australia), *Negar Arabzadeh* (UC Berkeley, USA), *Oleg Zendel* (RMIT University, Australia), *Philipp Hager* (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), *Qiang Sheng* (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), *Saber Zerhoudi* (Universität Passau, Germany), *Shubham Chatterjee* (Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA), *Takehiro Yamamoto* (University of Hyogo, Japan), *Thibault Formal* (Naver Labs, France), and *Tong Chen* (University of Washington, USA).

SIGIR’25 also recognized the contributions of the following individuals by awarding them the *Best Senior PC Member* awards: *Ben Carterette* (Spotify, USA), *Brian Davison* (Lehigh University, USA), *Iadh Ounis* (University of Glasgow, UK), *Josiane Mothe* (Université de Toulouse, France), *Laura Dietz* (University of New Hampshire, USA), *Maria Soledad Pera* (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands), *Mark Najork* (Google DeepMind, USA), *Mohammad Aliannejadi* (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), *Ralf Schenkel* (Universitaet Trier, Germany), *Raman Chandrasekar* (KJ Consulting, USA), *Ricardo Campos* (Universidade da Beira Interior, Portugal), *Tuukka Ruotsalo* (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), and *Yashar Moshfeghi* (University of Strathclyde, UK).

ICTIR’25, collocated with SIGIR’25, recognized the contributions of the following individuals with *Best Reviewer Awards*: *Ludovico Boratto* (University of Cagliari, Italy), *Adam Roegiest* (Zuva, Canada), *Alejandro Bellogin* (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), *Alberto Veneri* (Domyn, Italy), *Ronak Pradeep* (University of Waterloo, Canada), *Harrie Oosterhuis* (Radboud University, The Netherlands), *Thibault Formal* (Naver Labs, France), *Yue Wang* (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA), *Sajad Ebrahimi* (University of Guelph, Canada), *Richard Zanibbi* (Rochester Institute of Technology, USA), *Arthur Barbosa Câmara* (Zeta-Alpha, The Netherlands), *Ian Soboroff* (National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA), and *Peiji Sun* (Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, China).

ICTIR’25 also recognized the contributions of the following individuals with *Best Area Chair Awards*: *Vinay Setty* (University of Stavanger, Norway), *Hideo Joho* (University of Tsukuba, Japan), *Shubham Chatterjee* (Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA), *Rosie Jones* (Spotify, USA), *Oleg Zendel* (RMIT University, Australia), *Petra Galuscakova* (University of Stavanger, Norway), *Olivier Jeunen* (Aampe, Belgium), *Joyce C. Ho* (Emory University, USA), and *Sean MacAvaney* (University of Glasgow, UK).

Best Paper and Test of Time Awards. SIGIR'25 and ICTIR'25 recognized several papers with best paper awards and honorable mentions. Full and short papers were selected for these recognitions by two separate evaluation committees. *Noriko Kando* (National Institute of Informatics, Japan), *Don Metzler* (Google DeepMind, USA), and *Alistair Moffat* (University of Melbourne, Australia) served as Best Paper Chairs. The Best Full Paper Evaluation Committee comprised of: *Pablo Castells* (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), *Tat-Seng Chua* (National University of Singapore, Singapore), *Charles Clarke* (University of Waterloo, Canada), *Helen Huang* (University of Queensland, Australia), *Ryen White* (Microsoft, USA), *Emine Yilmaz* (University College London, UK), *ChengXiang Zhai* (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), and *Yi Zhang* (University of California Santa Cruz, USA). The Best Short Paper Evaluation Committee comprised of: *Eugene Agichstein* (Emory University, USA), *Arjen de Vries* (Radboud University, The Netherlands), *Claudia Hauff* (Spotify, The Netherlands), *Xuanjing Huang* (Fudan University, China), *Gareth Jones* (Dublin City University, Ireland), *Craig Macdonald* (University of Glasgow, UK), *Torsten Suel* (New York University, USA), and *Ji-Rong Wen* (Renmin University of China, China).

The SIGIR *Test of Time Award* recognizes research that has had long-lasting influence, including impact on a subarea of IR research, across subareas of IR research, and outside of the IR research community. The winning paper is selected from the set of full papers presented at the main SIGIR conference in the previous 10-12 years. The Test of Time Award Committee was chaired by *Mark Sanderson* (RMIT University, Australia) and *Hamed Zamani* (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA), and comprised of: *Pablo Castells* (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), *Claudia Hauff* (Spotify, The Netherlands), *Rosie Jones* (Spotify, USA), *Yiqun Liu* (Tsinghua University, China), *Tetsuya Sakai* (Waseda University, Japan), *Emine Yilmaz* (University College London, UK), and *Yi Zhang* (University of California Santa Cruz, USA).

All papers recognized with Best Paper and Test of Time Awards are listed in Table 3. Please see <https://sigir.org/awards/best-paper-awards/> and <https://sigir.org/test-of-time-award-winners/> for a full list of past awardees.

ACM SIGIR Early Career Researcher Awards. The SIGIR Early Career Researcher (ECR) Awards recognize outstanding contributions and leadership to the SIGIR community in research, community engagement, and/or diversity, equity, and inclusion by an early career researcher. Eligible candidates are within seven years from the conferral of their PhD degrees (career disruptions excluded). Candidates can be nominated by any current SIGIR member or active community participant. Self-nominations are permitted. Nominations should be submitted via email as a single PDF to the selection committee chair at sigir-ecr-award@acm.org. Each award comes with a plaque, a \$1000 USD honorarium, and \$2000 USD towards SIGIR travel. Please see <https://sigir.org/awards/sigir-ecr-awards/> for more information.

This year, the SIGIR ECR Award for *excellence in Research* recognizing substantial research contributions related to IR was presented to: Sean MacAvaney (University of Glasgow, UK). The SIGIR ECR Award for *excellence in Community Engagement* within the IR community was presented to: Mohammad Aliannejadi (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Johanne Trippas (RMIT University, Australia).

SIGIR Academy. The ACM SIGIR Academy honors and recognizes individuals who have made significant cumulative contributions to the field of IR, had impact on the field through

Table 3. ACM SIGIR/ICTIR best paper and test of time awards and honorable mentionss.

Award	Paper title	Authors
SIGIR Best paper award	An Efficient Engine for Multi-Vector Retrieval	Jan Luca Scheerer, Matei Zaharia, Christopher Potts, Gustavo Alonso, and Omar Khat-tab
SIGIR Best paper honorable mention	Towards Better Evaluating Multi-Query Sessions: A Measure Based on the Theory of Planned Behavior	Wenbo Zhang, Fan Zhang, Jia Chen, and Wei Lu
SIGIR Best paper honorable mention	The Viability of Crowdsourcing for RAG Evaluation	Lukas Gienapp, Tim Hagen, Maik Fröbe, Matthias Hagen, Benno Stein, Martin Potthast, and Harrison Scells
SIGIR Best short paper award	Do LLMs Memorize Recommendation Datasets? A Preliminary Study on MovieLens-1M	Dario Di Palma, Felice Antonio Merra, Maurizio Sfilio, Vito Walter Anelli, Fedelucio Narducci, and Tommaso Di Noia
SIGIR Best short paper award	GINGER: Grounded Information Nugget-Based Generation of Responses	Weronika Łajewska and Krisztian Balog
ICTIR Best paper award	Impersonating the Crowd: Evaluating LLMs' Ability to Replicate Human Judgment in Misinformation Assessment	David La Barbera, Riccardo Lunardi, Mengdie Zhuang, and Kevin Roitero
ICTIR Best paper honorable mention	Axioms for Retrieval-Augmented Generation	Jan Heinrich Merker, Maik Fröbe, Benno Stein, Martin Potthast, and Matthias Hagen
ICTIR Best paper honorable mention	Correctness is not Faithfulness in Retrieval Augmented Generation Attributions	Jonas Wallat, Maria Heuss, Maarten de Rijke, and Avishek Anand
ICTIR Best paper honorable mention	Rethinking Click Models in Light of Carousel Interfaces: Theory-Based Categorization and Design of Click Models	Jingwei Kang, Maarten de Rijke, Santiago de Leon-Martinez, and Harrie Oosterhuis
SIGIR Test of time award	Image-based recommendations on styles and substitutes	Julian McAuley, Christopher Targett, Javen Shi, and Anton van den Hengel
SIGIR Test of time honorable mention	Learning to Personalize Query Auto-Completion	Milad Shokouhi
SIGIR Test of time honorable mention	Time-aware point-of-interest recommendation	Quan Yuan, Gao Cong, Zongyang Ma, Aixin Sun, and Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann

the development of new research directions, innovations, and/or service, influenced the work of others, and reasonably actively participated in the ACM SIGIR community. Please see <https://sigir.org/awards/sigir-academy/> for more details about the ACM SIGIR Academy.

The *Class of 2025* inductees are: *David Carmel* (Technology Innovation Institute, Israel), *Evgeniy Gabrilovich* (Microsoft, USA), *Don Metzler* (Google DeepMind, USA), *Chirag Shah* (University of Washington, USA), *Ian Soboroff* (National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA), and *Min Zhang* (Tsinghua University, China).

The deadline for nominations was February 28, 2025. All nominations were reviewed by non-conflicted members of a selection committee comprising of: Mounia Lalmas (Spotify, UK), Jimmy Lin (University of Waterloo, Canada), Yiqun Liu (Tsinghua University, China), Jian-Yun Nie (Université de Montréal, Canada), Tetsuya Sakai (Waseda University, Japan), Yiming Yang (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), and Justin Zobel (University of Melbourne, Australia). The composition of the Committee changes annually, with 3-4 Committee members continuing for a

second (and final) year and 3-4 new members joining for a two-year term. The (non-voting) Chairs of the Selection Committee in 2025 are Yoelle Maarek (Technology Innovation Institute, UAE) and Marc Najork (Google DeepMind, USA). Future nominations and Questions can be sent to sigir-academy-award@acm.org.

7 Community Questions and Comments

This year, unfortunately the business meeting ran late and there weren't adequate time left for community questions and comments. Community members shared feedback on SLACK urging future SIGIR conferences to plan appropriately to allocate sufficient time towards this opportunity to engage the community in critical discussions. As a short-term mitigation, the SIGIR EC held office hours during this year's conference to give community members a chance to provide inputs and feedback.