

2014 Bôcher Prize



Simon Brendle

SIMON BRENDLE was awarded the 2014 Bôcher Memorial Prize at the 120th Annual Meeting of the AMS in Baltimore, Maryland, in January 2014.

Citation

The 2014 Bôcher Memorial Prize is awarded to Simon Brendle for his outstanding solutions of long-standing problems in geometric analysis, including the solution, with R. Schoen, of the differentiable sphere theorem in “Manifolds with $1/4$ -pinched curvature are space forms”, *Journal of the American Mathematical Society* **22** (2009), no. 1, 297–307, and the solution of the Lawson Conjecture (to appear in *Acta Mathematica*, 2013). The committee also recognizes Brendle’s deep contributions to the study of the Yamabe equation.

Biographical Note

Simon Brendle was born in Tübingen, Germany, in 1981. He received his Ph.D. from Tübingen University in 2001 under the direction of Gerhard Huisken. He has served on the faculty at Princeton University and is currently a professor at Stanford University. He has held visiting professorships at ETH Zürich and at Princeton University. In 2006 he was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, and in 2012 he received the EMS Prize of the European Mathematical Society.

Response from Simon Brendle

I feel very honored to receive the 2014 Bôcher Memorial Prize of the American Mathematical Society. I am grateful to my parents, Helga and Martin Brendle, and my high school mathematics teacher Jakob Nill, who provided me with an excellent education in mathematics. Finally, I am indebted to Richard Hamilton, whose groundbreaking work on the Ricci flow in the 1980s formed the basis for the proof of the Differentiable Sphere Theorem, and

to Gerhard Huisken who, in 1997, introduced the idea of two-point functions which later played an important role in the proof of Lawson’s Conjecture.

About the Prize

Established in 1923, the prize honors the memory of Maxime Bôcher (1867–1918), who was the Society’s second Colloquium Lecturer in 1896 and who served as AMS president during 1909–1910. Bôcher was also one of the founding editors of *Transactions of the AMS*. The original endowment was contributed by members of the Society. The prize is awarded for a notable paper in analysis published during the preceding six years. To be eligible, the author should be a member of the AMS, or the paper should have been published in a recognized North American journal. The prize is given every three years and carries a cash award of US\$5,000.

The Bôcher Prize is awarded by the AMS Council acting on the recommendation of a selection committee. For the 2014 prize, the members of the selection committee were Ronald R. Coifman, Sun Yung A. Chang, and Gunther A. Uhlmann.

Previous recipients of the Bôcher Prize are G. D. Birkhoff (1923), E. T. Bell (1924), Solomon Lefschetz (1924), J. W. Alexander (1928), Marston Morse (1933), Norbert Wiener (1933), John von Neumann (1938), Jesse Douglas (1943), A. C. Schaeffer and D. C. Spencer (1948), Norman Levinson (1953), Louis Nirenberg (1959), Paul J. Cohen (1964), I. M. Singer (1969), Donald S. Ornstein (1974), Alberto P. Calderón (1979), Luis A. Caffarelli (1984), Richard B. Melrose (1984), Richard M. Schoen (1989), Leon Simon (1994), Demetrios Christodoulou (1999), Sergiu Klainerman (1999), Thomas Wolff (1999), Daniel Tataru (2002), Terence Tao (2002), Fanghua Lin (2002), Frank Merle (2005), and Charles Fefferman, Carlos Kenig, Alberto Bressan (2008), and Assaf Naor and Gunther Uhlmann (2011).

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—Elaine Kehoe