

The Gold Medal

The Gold Medal is the highest award in the Society's gift, often awarded in recognition of a lifetime's work.

Year	Astronomy	Geophysics
2026	Shrinavas Kulkarni	Andrew Jackson
2025	James Binney	Jonathan Tennyson
2024	Gilles Chabrier	John-Michael Kendall
2023	John Peacock	Timothy N. Palmer
2022	George P. Efstathiou	Richard B. Horne
2021	Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Thorne Lay
2020	Sandra Moore Faber	Yvonne Elsworth
2019	Robert Kennicutt	Margaret Kivelson
2018	James Hough	Robert White
2017	Nick Kaiser	Michele Dougherty
2016	John D. Barrow	Philip England
2015	Michel Mayor	Mike Lockwood
2014	Carlos Frenk	John Zarnecki
2013	Roger Blandford	Chris Chapman
2012	Andrew Fabian	John Brown
2011	Richard Ellis	Eberhard Grün

2010	Douglas Gough	John Woodhouse
2009	David A. Williams	Eric Priest
2008	Joseph Silk	Brian Kennett
2007	John L. Culhane	Nigel O. Weiss
2006	Simon White	Stan Cowley
2005	Margaret Burbidge & Geoffrey Burbidge	Carole Jordan
2004	Jeremiah P. Ostriker	Grenville Turner
2003	John Bahcall	David Gubbins
2002	Leon Mestel	John Arthur Jacobs
2001	Hermann Bondi	Henry Rishbeth
2000	Leon Lucy	Robert Hutchison
1999	Bohdan Paczynski	Kenneth Budden
1998	James Peebles	Robert L. Parker
1997	Donald Osterbrock	Donald Farley
1996	Vera Rubin	Kenneth Creer
1995	Rashid Sunyaev	John T. Houghton
1994	James E. Gunn	Thomas R. Kaiser
1993	Donald Lynden- Bell	Peter Goldreich
1992	Eugene N. Parker	Dan P. McKenzie
1991	Vitaly Ginzburg	Gerald J. Wasserburg
1990	Bernard Ephraim Julius Pagel	James W. Dungey
1989	Ken Pounds	Raymond Hide
1988	Cornelis de Jager	Don L. Anderson
1987	Martin J. Rees	Takesi Nagata
1986	Alexander Dalgarno	George E. Backus
1985	Stephen Hawking	Thomas Gold
1984	Yakov Borisovich Zel'dovich	Stanley Keith Runcorn

1983	Michael John Seaton	Fred Whipple
1982	Riccardo Giacconi	Harrie Massey
1981	Bernard Lovell	James Freeman Gilbert
1980	Maarten Schmidt	Chaim L. Pekeris
1979	Charles Gorrie Wynne	Leon Knopoff
1978	Lyman Spitzer	James Van Allen
1977	John Gatenby Bolton	David Robert Bates
1976	William H. McCrea	John Ashworth Ratcliffe
1975	Jesse Greenstein	Ernst Öpik
1974	Ludwig Biermann	Keith Edward Bullen
1973	Edwin Salpeter	Francis Birch
1972	Fritz Zwicky	Henry Ivison Shipley Thirlaway
1971	Richard van der Riet Woolley	Frank Press
1970	Horace W. Babcock	
1969	Martin Schwarzschild	Albert Thomas Price
1968	Sir Fred Hoyle	Walter Munk
1967	Allan R. Sandage	Hannes Alfvén
1966	Ira Sprague Bowen	Harold Clayton Urey
1965	Gerald Maurice Clemence	Edward Bullard

1964	Martin Ryle	Maurice Ewing
1963		Harry Hemley Plaskett
1962	Bengt Strömgren	
1961	Herman Zanstra	
1960	Viktor Ambartsumian	
1959	Raymond Arthur Lyttleton	
1958		André Danjon
1957	Albrecht Unsöld	
1956		Thomas George Cowling
1955	Dirk Brouwer	
1954	Walter Baade	
1953	Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar	
1952	John Jackson	
1951	Antonie Pannekoek	
1950	Joel Stebbins	
1949		Sydney Chapman
1948	Bertil Lindblad	
1947		Marcel G. J. Minnaert
1946	Jan Hendrik Oort	
1945		Bengt Edlén
1944	Otto Struve	
1943		Harold Spencer Jones
1940	Edwin P. Hubble	
1939		Bernard Lyot

1938	William Hammond Wright	
1937		Harold Jeffreys
1936		Hisashi Kimura
1935	Edward Arthur Milne	
1934	Harlow Shapley	
1933	Vesto Slipher	
1932	Robert Grant Aitken	
1931	Willem de Sitter	
1930	John Stanley Plaskett	
1929	Ejnar Hertzsprung	
1928		Ralph Allen Sampson
1927	Frank Schlesinger	
1926	Albert Einstein	
1925		Frank Watson Dyson
1924	Arthur Eddington	
1923	Albert A. Michelson	
1922	James Hopwood Jeans	
1921	Henry Norris Russell	
1919	Guillaume Bigourdan	
1918		John Evershed
1917	Walter Sydney Adams	
1916	John L. E. Dreyer	
1915		Alfred Fowler
1914	Max Wolf	

1913		Henri-Alexandre Deslandres
1912	Arthur Robert Hinks	Arthur Robert Hinks
1911	Philip Herbert Cowell	
1910		Friedrich Küstner
1909	Oskar Backlund	
1908		David Gill
1907		Ernest William Brown
1906	William Wallace Campbell	
1905	Lewis Boss	
1904		George Ellery Hale
1903		Hermann Struve
1902	Jacobus Kapteyn	
1901	Edward Charles Pickering	
1900	Henri Poincaré	
1899	Frank McClean	
1898	William Frederick Denning	
1897	Edward Emerson Barnard	
1896	Seth Carlo Chandler	
1895	Isaac Roberts	
1894	Sherburne Wesley Burnham	
1893	Hermann Carl Vogel	
1892	George Howard Darwin	
1889	Maurice Loewy	
1888	Arthur Auwers	

1887	George William Hill	
1886	Edward Charles Pickering , Charles Pritchard	
1885	William Huggins	
1884	Andrew Ainslie Common	
1883	Benjamin A. Gould	
1882	David Gill	
1881	Axel Möller	
1879	Asaph Hall	
1878	Ercole Dembowski	
1876	Urbain Le Verrier	
1875	Heinrich d'Arrest	
1874	Simon Newcomb	
1872	Giovanni Schiaparelli	
1870	Charles Delaunay	
1869	Edward James Stone	
1868	Urbain Le Verrier	
1867	William Huggins , William Allen Miller	
1866	John Couch Adams	
1865	George Phillips Bond	
1863	Friedrich Wilhelm Argelander	
1862	Warren de la Rue	
1861	Hermann Goldschmidt	
1860	Peter Andreas Hansen	
1859	Richard Christopher Carrington	
1858	Robert Main	

1857	Heinrich Schwabe	
1856	Robert Grant	
1855	William Rutter Dawes	
1854	Charles Rümker	
1853	John Russell Hind	
1852	Christian August Friedrich Peters	
1851	Annibale de Gasparis	
1850	Otto Struve	
1849	William Lassell	
1848	# John Couch Adams, # George Biddell Airy, # Friedrich Wilhelm August Argelander, # George Bishop, # Peter Andreas Hansen, # Karl Ludwig Hencke	# Lt-Col. George Everest
1846	George Biddell Airy , # John Herschel, # John Russell Hind, # John William Lubbock, # Urbain Le Verrier, # Maxmilian Weisse, #	
1845	William Henry Smyth	
1843	Francis Baily	
1842	Peter Andreas Hansen	
1841	Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel	
1840	Jean Plana	
1839	John Wrottesley	
1837	Otto A. Rosenberger	
1836	John Herschel	
1835	Manuel J. Johnson	
1833	George Biddell Airy	
1831	Marie-Charles Damoiseau , Henry Kater	

1830	Johann Franz Encke , William Richardson	
1829	Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel , William Pearson , Heinrich Christian Schumacher	
1828	Thomas Makdougall Brisbane , James Dunlop , Caroline Herschel	
1827	Francis Baily , * Mark Beaufoy, * William Samuel Stratford	
1826	John Herschel, James South, Wilhelm Struve	
1824	Charles Babbage, Johann Franz Encke, * J.L. Pons, *Charles Rumker	
	# – Testimonial	
	* – Silver Medal	