



Royal  
Astronomical  
Society

**Jackson-Gwilt Medal 2022**  
**Dr Frank Eisenhauer**

The 2022 Jackson-Gwilt Medal is awarded to Dr Frank Eisenhauer.

Dr Frank Eisenhauer is a senior staff scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, where he has worked on instrumentation for adaptive optics, for integral-field spectroscopy, and for optical interferometry. The pinnacle of this work to date has been the development of two instruments that have been crucial to the discovery and the detailed, quantitative characterization of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our Galaxy: SINFONI and, most recently, GRAVITY.

The VLT's GRAVITY instrument, for which Dr Eisenhauer was Principal Investigator, is a four-telescope beam-combining interferometer incorporating many novel technical solutions that successfully address fearsome engineering challenges, combining live optical metrology with on-sky observations. It has brought to the IR domain techniques previously feasible only at radio wavelengths, resulting in major gains in both sensitivity and astrometric precision. Dr Eisenhauer has not only led the instrumentation development, creating a unique common-user facility, but he has also been actively involved in the exploitation of GRAVITY in progressing Galactic-centre science.

For these reasons, Dr Frank Eisenhauer is awarded the Jackson-Gwilt Medal.