

Wants to make the prize more widely known

Description

Mikael Hannus, the new Executive Secretary of the Marcus Wallenberg Prize, wants to spread the events over the whole year and identify new target groups in both society and academia.

Mikael Hannus was forced to adapt all activities to the Corona pandemic less than a month after his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Marcus Wallenberg Prize. The announcement of the 2020 prize-winners, Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring and Nicholas C Coops, was only published digitally and not in any public context, as is traditional. The award ceremony, which was to have taken place last autumn, is being moved to October 2021.

Likes to think in new ways

Being forced to redraw the map is a challenge that suits Mikael Hannus, the Senior Vice President of Group Innovation, Research and Development at Stora Enso. He has great respect for the traditions that have been established since the first Marcus Wallenberg Prize was awarded in 1981, but is at the same time open to changes that are able to unite science and the forest industry in completely new contexts.

“I hope it will be possible to extend awareness of the Marcus Wallenberg Prize beyond the activities associated with the award ceremony, he says.

Among other things, he hopes that previous prize-winners will be willing to participate in seminars that could be spread out throughout the year. Participants in the programme for young researchers can also contribute in various ways.

“We have an impressive list of prize-winners and young researchers who are important advocates for the Marcus Wallenberg Prize. It is the largest and most prestigious prize for forest-related research in the world, says Mikael Hannus.

The company's ethical principles

Mikael Hannus grew up in Närpes in Finnish Åsterbotten and studied for a Master of Science in chemical wood processing technology at Åbo Akademi University. After a couple of years as a project engineer at a small Finnish company, he joined Stora Enso, where he was eventually assigned the task of implementing the company's ethical principles.

“Formulating the concepts of the company's social responsibility was an interesting task for an engineer who was used to working on production-related improvements. I realised that this was an area that would receive more attention in the future.

Mikael Hannus was encouraged to apply for the position as Executive Secretary of the Marcus Wallenberg Prize and is extremely grateful that he was entrusted with the assignment, which he is able to combine with his post at Stora Enso.

Most at home in the forest

â?? Our forest consists mainly of pine, spruce and some birch. I like to go in with the brush-cutter to generate better growth. Rejuvenation areas are also beautiful in their own way. Raspberries are beginning to grow, and eventually blueberries and lingonberries that we can pick and freeze. My role models from childhood were farmers and foresters and I am also something of a collector, though I havenâ??t started to hunt yet. Iâ??m interested, but I havenâ??t got around to it. Letâ??s see if I can do it with my son or daughter in a few yearsâ?? time.

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The prize was founded to honour Marcus Wallenberg, 1899-1982, who was one of Sweden's important industrialists. He was CEO of Stockholms Enskilda Bank, now SEB, and had a large influence on several of Sweden's big companies during the 20th century.

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Page 2

- 2015: Akira Isogai and Tsuguyuki Saito, Japan, Yoshiharu Nishiyama, France â?? TEMPO-mediated production of nanofibrillated cellulose.
- 2016: Alexander Katsevich, USA and Federico Giudiceandrea, Italy â?? tomography for whole tree logs.
- 2017: Ronald R. Sederoff, USA â?? new methods for gene discovery in conifer species.
- 2018: Torgny N  rsholm, Sweden â?? an environmentally friendly fertiliser for the forest.
- 2019: Gerhard Schickhofer, Austria â?? research on cross-laminated timber, CLT.
- 2020: Joseph J Landsberg, Australia, Richard H Waring, USA and Nicholas C Coops, Canada â?? a model that is able to predict forest growth in a changing environment.