Schmidt Laureates

1948 – Leo C. Massopust, FBPA
1949 – Anne Shiras, FBPA
1950 – Stella Zimmer, FBPA
1951 – Ralph P. Creer, FBPA
1952 – Leonard A. Julin, RBP, FBPA
1953 – Oscar W. Richards, PhD, FBPA
1954 – Ferdinand R. Harding, RBP, FBPA
1955 – C. Graham Eddy, FBPA
1956 – Mervin W. LaRue, Sr., FBPA
1957 – Lloyd E. Varden, RBP, FBPA
1958 – Albert Levin, RBP, FBPA
1959 – Paul H. Holinger, MD, FBPA
1960 – H. Lou Gibson, RBP, FBPA
1961 – Warren Sturgis, RBP, FBPA
1962 – Stanley J. McComb, RBP, FBPA
1963 – Marie E. Ikenberg, RBP, FBPA
1964 – Peter Hansell, MD, RBP, FBPA
1965 – Howard E. Tribe, RBP, FBPA
1966 – John V. Butterfield, FBPA
1967 – not awarded
1968 – Chester F. Reather, RBP, FBPA
1969 – Laurence B. Brown, RBP, FBPA
1970 – Verlin Y. Yamamoto, RBP, FBPA
1971 – Stephen P. Dittman, RBP, FBPA
1972 – Clifford L. Freehe, RBP, FBPA
1973 – Stanley Klosevych, RBP, FBPA
1974 – Roger P. Loveland, FBPA
1975 – E. Lynn Baldwin, RBP, FBPA
1976 – Charles P. Hodge, RBP, FBPA
1977 – Lardner A. Coffey, RBP, FBPA
1978 – John P. Vetter, RBP, FBPA
1979 – Donald H. Fritts, RBP, FBPA
1980 – Fritz Goro, RBP, FBPA
1981 – I. Lloyd Matlovsky, RBP, FBPA
1982 – Leslie Bowcock, MD, AIMBI
1983 – H. Paul Newman, RBP, FBPA
1984 – Percy Brooks, RBP, FBPA
1985 – Leon J. LeBeau, FBPA
1986 – Nile Root, RBP, FBPA
1987 – Martin L. Scott, FBPA
1988 – Ralph J. Marshall, PhD
1989 – Thomas P. Hurtgen, FBPA
1990 – Raymond E. Lund, RBP, FBPA
1991 – Robert F. Sisson, RBP, FBPA
1992 – Nicholas M. Graver, RBP, FBPA
1993 – A. Robin Williams, FBPA
1994 – Will E. Renner, RBP, FBPA
1995 – Dan Patton, RBP, FBPA
1996 – Kenneth V. Michaels, FBPA
1997 – Ronald F. Irvine, RBP, FBPA
1998 – Heather Angel, FRPS, FBIPP
1999 – Richard M. Willliams, FBPA
2000 – Herbert R. Smith, Jr., FBPA
2001 – William J. Stenstrom, FBPA
2002 – W. David Tredinnick, FBPA
2003 – Joseph Ogrodnick, FBPA
2004 – Robert C. Turner, RBP, FBPA
2005 – Samuel Giannavola, RBP, FBPA
2006 – Gigi Williams, FBPA
2007 – Michael R. Peres, RBP, FBPA
2008 – Norman J. Barker, RBP, FBPA
2009 – Steven J. Harrison, FBPA
2010 – Andrew Davidhazy
2011 – Gale E. Spring, FBPA
2012 - James E. Hayden, RBP, FBCA
2013 - John B. Hendrix, RBP, FBCA
2014 - Paul Crompton

The 2014 Louis Schmidt Laureate

Paul Crompton
The Louis Schmidt Award

This Award – the highest given in the BCA – is named for our second President. It is awarded annually for “outstanding contributions to the progress of biological communications.” The selection of the recipient each year is made by a committee composed of the nine most recent winners. This selection is subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Schmidt was in charge of photography at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City and was a founding member of the BPA in 1931. He had an abiding interest in sharing his photographic knowledge with his students and in promoting the highest technical standards in our association.

In 1943, on the occasion of his death, the BPA Journal commented, “In many ways, the BPA is a monument to Louis Schmidt.”

To give special distinction to the Award, those who receive it are known as “Louis Schmidt Laureates.”

The BioCommunications Association, Inc. is grateful to Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the generous gift of a 100-year-old, gold-headed cane. It was received August 4, 1990, in Phoenix, Arizona. The cane is part of the BCA Louis Schmidt Award and was presented the first time to Robert F. Sisson on August 3, 1991, in Tampa, Florida.

The gold head is composed of heavy inlaid gold on a copper base. The principal value of the cane is due to the goldsmith’s ability to create and fashion a design of elegant beauty. The cane’s original owner was Dr. Goebel who received it in a presentation of unknown designation in 1902. It came into Mrs. Mary Lappan Vetter’s possession upon the death of her uncle, Father Thomas T. Lappan.

The BioCommunications Association, through the generous gift of Mary Vetter, is pleased to present this special cane as its highest honor.

The 2014 Louis Schmidt Laureate

Paul Crompton

Paul Crompton has made significant contributions to the field of BioCommunications in Medicine through publications, presentations, teaching and exhibitions. He received a Vocational Diploma of the British Institute of Professional Photographers from Blackpool College of Arts and Technology, UK in 1977. He was a medical photographer at University Hospital of Wales from 1977-1985 during which time he received additional certifications in medical photography and teaching.

Exploring the wider context of photography and wanting to mentor young photographers, he was Lecturer and Course Leader in Photography at Cheshire School of Art and Design (1985 – 1994). Following his M.A. in Photographic Studies from Derby University UK in 1991, he was appointed Visiting Lecturer in Photography at Blackpool College of Art (1992 – 1994). Anticipating the digital photography revolution, he returned to University Hospital of Wales in 1994 as Head of Photography, Media Resources Centre, Cardiff. Over the next 13 years, he managed the change to digital photography expanding the service into ophthalmic imaging and developing the role of photography within the patient care-pathways of dermatology and wound healing. In 2007 he was promoted to the role of Director and Head of Service at the same institution, managing a staff of 36 and an annual operating budget of approximately £1 million.

He is a member and active leader in four professional societies: IMI, OIA, BCA and HeSCA. For the UK’s Institute of Medical Illustrators, he took the lead in modernizing the career path and standardizing qualifications for students in the field of biomedical communications. Crompton has received numerous awards for his work. He has published 12 major papers and given 22 major presentations from 1982 to 2013 at professional conferences in the UK and U.S. He has an active career in creating his own photography, having presented eight major art exhibitions since 1985. His most recent personal project involved working with the charity Mothers of Africa, which helps healthcare workers in sub-Saharan Africa address high rates of maternal mortality. In 2013 he also helped install computers in a solar-power health education classroom in a remote village in Zambia.

Cover portrait by Jess Oliver