

Call for nominations for the Osman Hill Memorial Lecture

PSGB is seeking nominations for the 2019 Osman Hill Memorial Lecturer, which honours 'distinguished primatologists' who will be awarded the Osman Hill medal and deliver a prize lecture at a Society meeting.

The Society defines distinguished primatologists as those who have shown excellence in research. They should have produced a substantial body of original, rigorous research (this can be both fundamental or applied research) that has moved primatology forward. Research excellence is the primary criterion for the award.

Also taken into account are:

- Service to education, for example mentoring the next generation of primatologists including post-graduate students and post-doctoral scholars
- Engagement beyond the academy and PSGB, including conservation education and campaigning, and public engagement
- Service to PSGB on council or as an officer

Any PSGB member (student, associate and full members) can nominate someone for the Osman Hill. They simply have to write a letter to the Society's council explaining how and why the person they are nominating fits the criteria, providing evidence to back up these points.

Nominations should be no more than one side of A4 and should be submitted to Lewis Dean secretary@psgb.org by 1 April 2019.

We do not require a CV and you do not need to inform the person you are nominating. Each nomination will be considered on its content, so we will not take account of how many nominations someone has received.

Eligibility:

Nominees can be from any country of origin and residence. They do not need to be a current member of PSGB.

We recognise that primatology is a global field with important contributions from a diverse group of people from all over the world. We seek a diverse set of nominees to reflect this fact.

We recognise the uneven distribution of resources in primatology and that there are large sections of the primatology community whose excellence is often overlooked because of who they are or the resources they have access to. We will take this into account when assessing nominations.

There's an example nomination letter below.

History:

PSGB established the Osman Hill Memorial Lectures in 1977, to commemorate the influential anatomist and primatologist William Osman Hill, who died in 1975. Past lecturers are listed on the PSGB website <http://www.psgb.org/medals.php>.

Dear Simon, Andrew and members of the committee

Nomination of Prof Colin Groves for the Osman Hill memorial medal

It is our great pleasure to nominate Emeritus Professor Colin Groves for the Osman Hill memorial medal, to honour his outstanding contribution to the field of Primatology.

Colin has had a profound influence on our field. Born in England on 24 June 1942, Colin completed his BSc at University College London in 1963, and his PhD at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in 1966. From 1966 to 1973 he was a Postdoctoral Researcher and Teaching Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, Queen Elizabeth College and the University of Cambridge. He emigrated to Australia in 1974, and has been at the Australian National University since, being promoted to full Professor in 2000.

Colin's 2001 book "Primate Taxonomy" proposed a complete taxonomy of the living primates, reviewing the history and practice of their classification and providing an up-to-date synthesis of recent molecular and phylogenetic research. Such revisions are usually published as expensive monographs, but Colin's outstanding volume reached expert and non-expert alike, and served to demystify taxonomy for primatologists. Similarly, his extremely engaging conference presentations have alerted successive generations to the science of taxonomy. He taught us that a species is a hypothesis. He also proved unafraid to reassess his position in the light of new evidence – a hallmark of a great scientist.

Colin's encyclopedic knowledge of primates and approach to Primatology are exemplified in "Extended Family: Long Lost Cousins" (2008). Appealing to established academics, students, and the broader public, the volume serves to illustrate Colin's ability to enthuse and educate, as well as his delicious sense of humour.

Colin has been an editorial board member for the *Journal of Human Evolution*, the *International Journal of Primatology*, *Human Evolution* and *Zoological Research*. In his post at The Australian National University, Colin has educated generations of undergraduates and mentored many postgraduates, including students from many primate habitat countries. Colin is also extremely generous with his time, reviewing prodigiously and also helping many non-native English speakers to polish manuscripts prior to publication.

In recognition of his contribution to scholarship, Colin was admitted to Membership of the New York Academy of Sciences (1995), awarded a Conservation International Award for Primate Conservation (2014) and given a Lifetime Honorary Membership to the American Society of Mammalogists (2013).

Colin has written well in excess of 200 articles and book chapters and is very widely cited, in conservation as well as primatology more generally. His work on primate taxonomy has provided the basis for many of the species designations in the IUCN Red List, for which he has also served as an assessor. In addition to his work on primates, he has been influential in the conservation of other groups, including pigs and ungulates.

This award would be fitting recognition for an extremely distinguished career.

Finally, and sadly, we understand that Colin's health is very poor. As a result, he may not be able to deliver the Osman Hill lecture in person but he is still writing and researching, and if awarded the Medal we are sure he would be able to provide a lecture text and slides for one of us to read in his place at the meeting if he was not physically able to attend.

Yours sincerely

Jo Setchell, Russell Hill, Rob Barton and Sarah Elton, Durham University

Todd C. Rae, Roehampton University

Christophe Soligo and Helen Chatterjee, University College London

Vincent Nijman, Oxford Brookes University