

The Nobel Prize as a Benchmark for Research Quality

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Nobel Prize Awarding Institutions

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
 - Nobel Prize in Physics
 - Nobel Prize in Chemistry
 - The Memorial Prize in Economics (1969)
- The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institutet
 - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
- The Swedish Academy
 - Nobel Prize in Literature
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee
 - The Nobel Peace Prize

Quality measure defined by Alfred Nobel's will

“prizes to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind”

“person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics”

“person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement”

“person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine”

“person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction”

“person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the promotion and holding of peace congresses”

A Nobel Prize Contribution

- should have opened new doors to science
(changed the way we think)
- should have been reported in publication(s) that
made great impact
- should have wide consequences

What gives prestige?

- the first international prize established (1895, 1901)
- quality of prize work
- quality of laureates (recognition)
- the broad spectrum (science, medicine, literature, peace)
- the Royal Glory (broad public interest; the Award Ceremony; the Banquet)
- media coverage

Organizational concepts facilitating the making of major discoveries

- Communication and integration
- Leadership capacity
- Organizational adaptiveness
- Scientific diversity
- Organizational flexibility

Organizational concepts hampering the making of major discoveries

- Differentiation
- Hierarchical authority
- Bureaucratic coordination
- Hyper diversity