Andrew Pethick

Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award
Perth February 2015

The Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award, inaugurated in 2013, is presented for the best paper published by a Student Member in Exploration Geophysics in the period prior to each ASEG Conference.

The award is named in memory of the late Dr Shanti Rajagopalan, who passed away in 2010. Shanti was one of the best known and respected members of the ASEG, and was well known within the geophysical profession for her outstanding contributions and service to the profession and the ASEG.

Shanti was a major contributor to the ASEG in many ways. She was Victorian branch President, and was actively involved in the organisation of ASEG conferences in Hobart and Melbourne. She was also Managing Editor of Exploration Geophysics in 2000 and 2001.

But it is most noteworthy in the context of this award that, in 1987 as a student member, Shanti was awarded the inaugural Laric Hawkins Award for the most innovative use of a geophysical technique from a paper presented at the ASEG Conference. It is therefore very appropriate that an award to encourage technical excellence by our Student Members is named in honour of Shanti.

There were two papers selected by the adjudication panel which were in close contention for the award. The papers were of very similar quality and both addressed topics of importance and of current interest. The selection committee had difficulty separating the papers but one paper was judged to be slightly better constructed and more informative.

The runner up for the award is Konstantin Tertyshnikov from Curtin University for his paper co-authored with A.Bóna and R.Pevzner entitled: “Prestack time imaging algorithm with simultaneous velocity estimation in hard rock environments”

The winner and recipient of the Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award for 2015 is Andrew Pethick of Curtin University, for his paper co-authored with Brett Harris entitled: “Bathymetry, electromagnetic streamlines and the marine controlled source electromagnetic method”.