



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics



Prize Co-sponsor:



2026 Prize Ceremony

The ICTP - IBM Brahmagupta AI Prize for Early Career Scientists

ICTP Budinich Lecture Hall
Thursday 23 July 2026, 14:30

ABOUT THE 2026 PRIZE

The 2026 ICTP-IBM Brahmagupta AI Prize for Early Career Scientists is awarded to Professor Michael Skinnider of Princeton University, USA, "for pioneering the application of artificial intelligence to biomedical discovery, and for developing transformative AI methods that reveal previously unknown chemistry, accelerate metabolite discovery, advance neuroscience, and address major challenges in human health".

The award honours Indian mathematician and astronomer Brahmagupta, known for his important contributions to mathematics. In particular, he was the first to consider zero as a number and for introducing negative numbers.

ABOUT THE 2026 AWARDEE

Michael Skinnider received his undergraduate degree from McMaster University and a MD/PhD from the University of British Columbia, during which time he was also a visiting PhD student at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.



He then started his laboratory in the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at Princeton University. His research focuses on the application of machine learning to problems in biology, chemistry, and medicine.

2026 ICTP-IBM BRAHMAGUPTA AI PRIZE CEREMONY PROGRAMME

Master of Ceremonies:

Sandro Scandolo - Senior Coordinator, ICTP Research Division

14:30 - 14:50 Opening Remarks

Atish Dabholkar - Director, ICTP

Alessandro Curioni - Fellow, IBM;

Vice President, IBM Europe and Africa;

Director, IBM Research Zurich

14:50 - 15:00 Announcement and jury motivation (online)

Marc Mézard - Professor, Bocconi University

15:00 - 15:10 Awarding of the ICTP-IBM Brahmagupta AI Prize

15:10 - 15:30 Laudatio (online)

David S. Wishart - Professor, University of Alberta

15:30 - 16:15 Prize Lecture: "Charting the Unknown Metabolome with Biochemical AI"

Michael Skinnider - Professor, Princeton University

16:15 - 17:00 Keynote talk: "Small, Specialised, Collaborative and Open-Weight: The Models Enabling Physical AI"

Eiman Kanjo - Professor, Birmingham Trent University

17:00 - 17:05 Group photo

The ceremony will be followed by light refreshments