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## Press Release

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## ROBERT J. SAWYER WINS WORLD'S TOP CASH PRIZE FOR SCIENCE FICTION

### Robert J. Sawyer Facts:

- He is the author of 16 novels, including *Hybrids*, *Calculating God*, *Far-Seer*, and *Frameshift*.
- His *The Terminal Experiment* won the Nebula Award — SF's "Academy Award" — for Best Novel of 1995.
- His *Hominids* won the Hugo Award — SF's top international honor — for Best Novel of 2003.
- His next novel, *Mindscan*, is an April 2005 title.
- He has done over 400 radio and TV interviews.
- *The Montreal Gazette* calls him "Canada's answer to Michael Crichton."
- *The New York Times* says he's "a writer of boundless confidence and bold scientific extrapolation."

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**Robert J. Sawyer** of Mississauga, Ontario, today won Spain's top science-fiction award, the *Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción*, for an unprecedented third time.

The Premio UPC is the largest cash prize currently given in the SF field. The winner receives 6,000 euro (US\$7,800 or Cdn\$9,300). Called "the most important science fiction award in Europe" by British author and critic Brian W. Aldiss, the Premio UPC has been given annually since 1991 by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (the Polytechnic University of Catalonia), in Barcelona.

The winner is selected by a jury, which evaluates submissions blindly



(without author names) in Catalan, Spanish, English, and French. The prize is exclusively for novella-length works (70-115 manuscript pages), making it one of the world's top-money-value short-fiction awards in any field of writing.

Sawyer's winning story, "Identity Theft," will appear in print for the first time in the spring of 2005 in the original anthology *Down These Dark Spaceways* edited by Mike Resnick, and published exclusively by Doubleday's Science Fiction Book Club.

*Down These Dark Spaceways* is a collection of six all-new hard-boiled-detective science-fiction novellas. "Identity Theft" tells the story of Alex Lomax, the only private detective on Mars. He's hired to find a missing person who has uploaded his consciousness into a nondescript android body and disappeared somewhere on the Red Planet.

Sawyer, 44, is the first English-language winner of the award since he himself last won it in 1998 for his novella "Block Universe," a self-contained excerpt from his novel *Flashforward* (which itself went on to win Canada's Aurora Award for best English-language SF novel of the year).

Sawyer's other Premio UPC win was in 1997 for "Psychospace," a self-contained excerpt from his Hugo Award-nominated novel *Factoring Humanity*. Sawyer now has the most UPC Awards of any writer ever; the only other multiple winner is Spanish author Carlos Gardini, who took the prize in 1996 and again in 2001.

Other previous English-language winners of the UPC Award include the Americans Mike Resnick in 1994 for "Seven Views of Olduvai Gorge" and Jack McDevitt for "Ships in the Night." By coincidence, Resnick and McDevitt also both have novellas forthcoming in *Down These Dark Spaceways*.



## Sawyer Wins Top Cash Award ■ 3

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Sawyer's previous honors include the 2003 Hugo Award -- the world's top prize in science fiction -- for Best Novel of the Year (for *Hominids*) and the 1995 Nebula Award from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America for Best Novel of the Year (for *The Terminal Experiment*), as well as France's *Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire* for best foreign short story (for "You See But You Do Not Observe"), and three Japanese *Seiun* Awards for best foreign novel of the year (for *End of an Era*, *Frameshift*, and *Illegal Alien*). His latest novel is *Hybrids*, the concluding volume of his bestselling "Neanderthal Parallax" trilogy.

For interviews with author **Robert J. Sawyer**, please contact:

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**Information about the award:**

[www.upc.edu/english/sciencefiction/Rules.html](http://www.upc.edu/english/sciencefiction/Rules.html)

**The Robert J. Sawyer Web Site:**

[www.sfwriter.com](http://www.sfwriter.com)