

The Chalmers University of Technology Award for Research Supervisor of the Year is this year presented to **Erik Agrell**, Professor in Communication Systems at the Department of Signals and Systems.

Erik Agrell is a renowned researcher in his field, and he has also supervised several PhD students along the way to dissertation. Erik's philosophy of supervision is "Progression", which cuts across his thinking regarding how to steer his PhD students towards becoming good researchers and members of the academic society. A part of this is to let the PhD student take an increasing amount of responsibility of his/hers project as it progresses. His door is always open for short questions, and he always make sure to have sufficient time for supervision each week. He also tries to design the supervision for each PhD student, which requires feedback from PhD student to supervisor as well as from supervisor to PhD student. Erik sees the feedback that he gets from his students as one of the most valuable tools he has to improve his supervisor skills.

When there is a possibility, professor Agrell also encourages the utilization of his PhD student's research. Today there are several patents pending, and at least one embryo to a start-up company. If there is a clash between publication and patent, publication has priority. But most often the two can be combined in a good manner.

Professor Agrell has a large international network which he shares with his PhD students. He encourages the students to go abroad on both short trips such as conferences as well as longer visits to different research environments. He has also been one of the driving forces behind the FORCE research center, a collaboration between Signals and Systems and MC2 at Chalmers, where traditional discipline boundaries are bridged.

To summarize, Erik Agrell is an encouraging, competent and curious supervisor who lets his PhD students grow independently into good researchers who produces excellent research. He inspires his PhD students, and we hope that with this price, supervisors around Chalmers could also become inspired.