2019 Hall Medal awarded to Koen Thas

Koen Thas has made significant contributions in the areas of finite geometry and absolute geometry, and has addressed important problems in mathematical physics and quantum information theory using geometric and group-theoretic methods. He has solved a number of fundamental open problems by eminent researchers. His classification work in the theory of generalized quadrangles has been described as "very interesting" and "groundbreaking," with "remarkable results, thought of as out of reach for a long time." In his work linking algebraic geometry over F_1 and combinatorics, he was one of the first in almost forty years to contribute new substantial results to infinite Singer theory.

Dr. Thas was awarded an ICA Kirkman Medal in 2006, and the Triennial Prize of the Flemish Science Foundation for Exact Sciences in 2009. He is the sole author of over fifty papers and two books, and a co-author of many more, and has given numerous invited talks at conferences around the world.