

Press Conference President of JST

October 17, 2019



Japan Science and Technology Agency

The 1st Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award)



Japan Science and Technology Agency

Brief Overview

Purpose

As part of our efforts to promote the active participation of female researchers, JST set up this awards program to commend: female researchers working on outstanding research that contributes to a sustainable future society; organizations supporting female researchers' activities.

The Ashida Fund* will cooperate to provide a supplementary prize of 1 million yen.

*The Ashida Fund was established in 1994 by the late fashion designer Jun Ashida for the purpose of nurturing the younger generation.

Eligibility (Both self-recommendation and recommendations by others are eligible.)

- **【The Award for a Female Researcher】**
A female researcher aged under 40 in principle. Recognizes pauses in research due to life events.
- **【The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers】**
A progressive organization carrying out initiatives contributing to greater involvement of female researchers, serving as a model for other organizations.

Judges



Keiko Torii, Chair
Johnson and Johnson
Centennial Professor of
Plant Cell Biology, University
of Texas at Austin
Investigator, Howard
Hughes Medical Institute
(HHMI)



Chieko Asakawa
IBM Fellow, IBM T.J.
Watson Research
Center



Reiko Abe
Chair person,
Oriental
Consultants India
Pvt. Ltd.



Hiroshi Kitagawa
Professor, Graduate School
of Science, Kyoto University
Vice Provost, Kyoto
University



Hitoshi Murayama
MacAdams Professor of Physics,
University of California, Berkeley
Faculty Senior Staff, Lawrence
Berkeley National Laboratory
Principal Investigator and
Professor, Kavli Institute for the
Physics and Mathematics of the
Universe (Kavli IPMU), The
University of Tokyo



Kimiko Murofushi
President,
Ochanomizu
University



Masashi Yanagisawa
Director and Professor,
International Institute for
Integrative Sleep Medicine
(WPI-IIS) The University of
Tsukuba

Special Features

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award

- Celebrates brilliant female researchers working on outstanding research that contributes to a sustainable future (female researchers under 40 years of age are considered in principle, but pauses in research due to life events are recognized.)
- Focuses also on activities other than research or research outcomes that have a positive impact on society
- Will be presented to individuals across all the fields relating to science and technology

The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

- This award celebrates progressive organizations that carry out initiatives contributing to the greater involvement of female researchers, thus serving as a model for other organizations.

Selection Criteria

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

Judges evaluate applicants based on the following selection criteria:

- Achievements in research
- Creative outlook and pioneering spirit toward research, future prospects, and contributions in solving social issues
- Non-research contributions to society (e.g., fostering human resource and implementing environmental improvement)
- Global view (e.g., overseas experience and collaborations with overseas research organizations)

The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

Judges evaluated applicant organizations on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Potential for being a model for other organizations
- Collaboration with other organizations to expand activities
- Effectiveness and outcomes of activities

State of Application and Future Schedule

State of Application

Application Period: From April 1st to June 30th, 2019

Number of Applications:

- The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher ⇒ 104 applications
- The Award for an Organization in Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers
⇒ 12 applications

Selection and Announcement of Winners

- Selection Period: From early July to mid August
- The Winners

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The JST President Award)

- Announcement of winners:

【Press Release】October 17, 2019

Announcement of Winners and Awards Ceremony for the 1st Brilliant Female Researchers Award
(The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

■ Winner and Award

Miki Ebisuya (38 years old as of April 1, 2019)

Group Leader, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Barcelona



JST presents a trophy and certificate and the Ashida Fund offers one million yen as a supplementary prize.

■ Evaluation

- Dr. Ebisuya is one of the top researchers in synthetic developmental biology, having "reconstituted" cell autonomous differentiation and cellular pattern formation artificially. She has recently attracted attention for tackling an essential question of biology: investigating the cause of different timing of developmental processes among different animal species.
- She also makes contributions to the academic community and wider society by promoting communication between European and Japanese researchers.

■ Profile

- Research Filed: Synthetic Developmental Biology
- Research Experience:
 - Group leader at EMBL Barcelona (2018–)
 - Unit leader, RIKEN and PRESTO researcher, JST, Japan (2013–2019)
 - Group leader, Career-Path Promotion Unit for Young Life Scientists, Kyoto University (2009–2013)
- Awards and Honors :
 - The Young Scientists' Prize from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2013)

The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

■ Winner and Award Kyushu University (Chiharu Kubo, President)

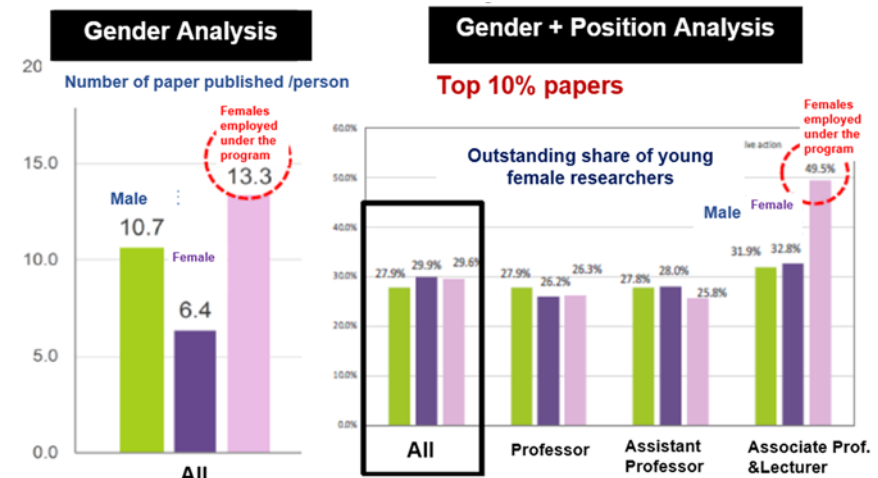
JST presents a trophy and certificate.

■ Evaluation

- In 2009, Kyushu University launched their original “employment and training system of faculty members by setting up female posts” ahead of other universities, and built the “Kyushu University Method” of recruiting and nurturing excellent female human resources – using a highly transparent two-stage examination obtaining applications from female researchers through international public advertisement. They also established the “system of employment for faculty members with accompanying spouse” in 2017.
- By analyzing the performance of the papers of female researchers, the effect of their female-focused recruitment system was quantitatively verified and visualized. As a result, they demonstrated the significance of this system, contributed to unconscious biases reduced regarding the research capabilities of female researchers, and also are working on collaboration and development with other organizations through communication at international conferences – attracting attention both at home and abroad.

■ Primary Activities and Outcomes

- Ahead of other universities, Kyushu University launched their original “employment and training system of faculty members by setting up female posts” in 2009.
- The effect of their female-focused recruitment system was visualized by analyzing the performance of papers by young female researchers employed through female posts (FY2018).
- Kyushu University firstly introduced the system of employment for faculty members with accompanying spouse in Japan, and it was exercised for the first time in November 2018.



The number of top 10% papers published by female researchers employed under the program exceeded that of the average male researchers. Especially papers by **young female researchers** have attracted domestic and foreign attention."

Presentation material for the WSSF2018 International Conference ©Kyushu University

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The JST President Award)

■ Winner and Award

Aiko Fukasawa (39 years old at a time of April 1, 2019)

Professor, Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS), Institute for Advanced Study, Kyoto University

JST presents a trophy and certificate.



■ Evaluation

- Dr. Fukazawa has produced outstanding achievements in her research on the development of organic functional materials and given back to society: the commercialization of a super-photostable fluorescent dye that survives in repeated STED laser irradiation and development of a solution-processable organic semiconductor with high stability in air.
- She also inspires the younger generation, both female and male, with her regular science information dissemination activities on various media channels.

■ Profile

- Research Filed: organic main-group element chemistry, organic functional material chemistry
- Academic Appointments :
 - Professor/Principal Investigator, Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS), Institute for Advanced Study, Kyoto University (2018–)
 - Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University (2013–2018)
 - Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University (2007–2013)
- Awards and Honors:
 - Lectureship Award MBLA (by MSD Life Science Foundation) (2019)
 - Award for Distinguished Young Chemists, The Chemical Society of Japan (2014)