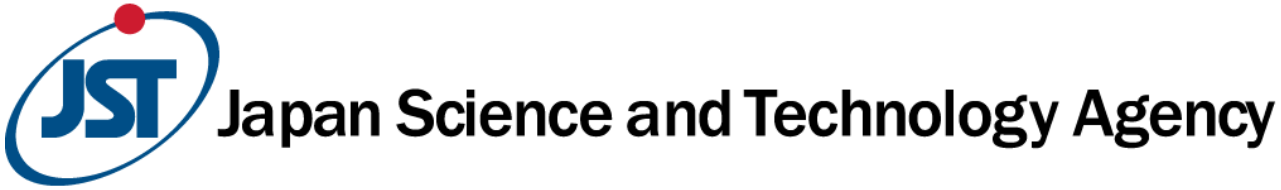
Press Conference
President of JST

March 24, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Call for the Brilliant Female Researchers Award
（The Jun Ashida Award）



Call for the Brilliant Female Researchers Award （The Jun Ashida Award）

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. The Japan International Science and Technology Exchange Center (JISTEC) operates and manages the Ashida Fund by keeping the funds from Jun Ashida Co. Ltd.

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

【The Award for a Brilliant 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

2021 Schedule

- Application: April 1st – June 30th (12:00 pm)
- Selection: Early July to the end of August
- Announcement and Ceremony : November 3rd (wed) (Planned)

Judges

Keiko Torii, (Chair) | Chieko Asakawa | Reiko Abe | Yoshie Okusa

Hiroshi Kitagawa | Chiharu Tokoro | Hitoshi Murayama | Masashi Yanagisawa

HP:https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/award/index.html

Contact: Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness, JST

Tel: 03-5214-8443 E-mail: diversity@jst.go.jp

Today's Lectures

Fellow Shimazu

● Shimazu Hiromoto

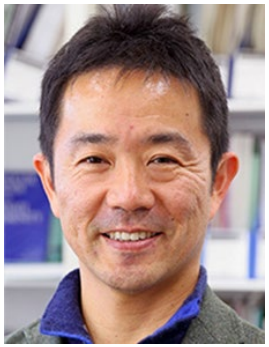
Fellow and Leader of the Life Science and Clinical Research Unit, Center for Research and Development Strategy(CRDS), JST

Graduated from Graduate School of Science, Osaka University.

At JST, after working on the industry-academia collaboration program, he had been in charge of panoramic view and planning of research strategies of information, nanotechnology and material fields.

He authored proposals for Materials Informatics. Passed patent attorney examination.

Today's Lectures



Professor Ishii

● Ken J. Ishii

Professor, Division of Vaccine Science, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Institute of Medical Science, the University of Tokyo

- 1996-2003: He joined the research program of innate immune recognition and was involved as a reviewer in the review administration of clinical trials for new vaccines in the U.S. at Food and Drug Administration (FDA), USA.
- 2003-2008: Group Leader, Akira Innate Immunity Project, ERATO. Through this project, he was engaged in basic research on the innate immune system of nucleic acid including CpG.
- 2010: He started the vaccine adjuvant research and development including CpG adjuvant as a project leader of Laboratory of Adjuvant Innovation at the National Institute of Biomedical Innovation.
- 2004: He conducted a joint research of BGCpG with Professor Sakurai.

Professor Sakurai

● Kazuo Sakurai

Professor, Faculty of Environmental Engineering, Kitakyushu University

- 1999: He was seconded from Kanebo (now Kracie) to the JST Shinkai Project (ICORP) and was instrumental in the discovery of polysaccharide nucleic acid complex. He was selected as a JST PRESTO researcher and left Kanebo to devote himself to this research.
- He has searched application of the polysaccharide nucleic acid complex for DDS with Professor Shinkai of Kyusyu University under the JST SORST program.
- He met with Professor Ishii (Group Leader, Akira Innate Immunity Project, ERATO at that time) at JST meeting and started a joint research of CpGDNA for DDS.
- In collaboration with Professor Ishii, they discovered that DDS using CpGDNA and polysaccharide SPG using DDS dramatically enhanced immune activation of CpGDNA under the CREST program: "Manipulation of nano interface of drug-delivery system and its application to vaccine for bird flu."