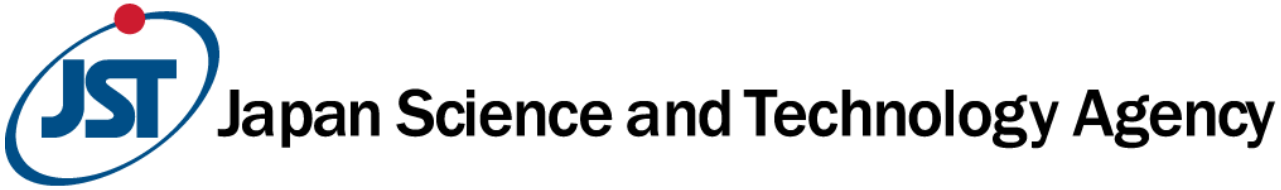
Press Conference
President of JST

September 17, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency

1st Marie Sklodowska Curie Award



1st Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

Purpose

JST and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland have established an award for commending young female researchers who aim to be active on the global stage. JST recognizes **the importance of initiatives designed to promote the activities of female researchers in their late twenties and early thirties**, when they are expected to be the most active as researchers and, at the same time, deal with various life events. JEOL Ltd. will cooperate to provide a supplementary prize of 1 million yen. As a sub prize for the Grand Prize winner, the Polish embassy and the Polish Academy of Science will provide travel expenses for visiting research institutes in Poland.

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

Female researchers who are in the early stage of their careers and have obtained a PhD within the last 5 years including postdoc*, PhD students, and those who are equivalent to them, as of April 1, 2022.

*Periods of being away from research due to life events are excluded.

Holding Japanese citizenship with regardless of current address.

Awards

Grand Prize (for one person) Prize pot: 500k yen and sub prize: travel expenses for visiting Poland

Inspiration Prize (for two people) Prize pot: 250k yen (each)

Schedule

- Application: October 1st – December 13th (12:00 pm)
- Selection: End of December (2021) to early March (2022)
- Announcement and Ceremony: May 2022 (planned)
  (Polish embassy will host the award ceremony.)

Judges

IWASAKI Akiko
(Committee Chair)
Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University/ Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

IWAO Emma Haruka
Developer Advocate, Google Cloud

OOGURI Hirosi
Director, The Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, The University of Tokyo / Fred Kavli Professor and Director of the Walter Burke Institute for Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology

KOTANI Motoko
Executive Vice President for Research, Tohoku University / Professor, Mathematical Institute, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

SOMEYA Takao
Dean, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo / Chief Scientist· Team Leader, RIKEN

NUMATA Keiji
Professor, Department of Material Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University / Team Leader, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science

HARADA Naomi
Director General, Research Institute for Global Change, Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology

HIBIYA Junko
Managing Director, Board of Trustees, School Corporation Sacred Heart Schools / Professor Emerita, International Christian University

Tomasz M. Rutkowski
Managing Director, Board of Trustees, School Corporation Sacred Heart Schools / Professor Emerita, International Christian University

Biography of Akiko Iwasaki (Committee Chair)

Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology,
Yale University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Akiko Iwasaki received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1998 and her postdoctoral training from the National Institutes of Health (USA). She joined Yale University as a faculty in 2000.

【Awards】 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award in Biomedical Sciences, Wyeth Lederle Young Investigator Award, Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in Pathogenesis in Infectious Diseases, BD Biosciences Investigator Award, etc.
【Membership】 National Academy of Science (2018), National Academy of Medicine (2019), American Society of Microbiology (2020), and American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2021)

Dr. Iwasaki is currently at the forefront of COVID-19-related research, scientific communications, and public services. Her views as an expert have been quoted in many media outlets as one of the 50 most trusted experts in the COVID-19 pandemic. Newsweek Japan named her as one of the 100 most respected Japanese. Giving lectures to women and minorities active in the field of science and medicine, she has gained numerous followers on social media.

Dialogue with Chair Iwasaki

Establishment ofMarie Sklodowska Curie Award

Recorded on July 28, 2021

Akiko Iwasaki
Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Michinari Hamaguchi
President, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Japan Science and Technology Agency　Diversity

URL ： https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvzeSgD7OyE

Interview Part 1 Establishment of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

1. JST and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland have established an award for commending young female researchers who aim to be active on the global stage, while dealing with several life events.
2. (Dr. Iwasaki) I felt a limitation to challenge something big within Japan. Then, I dropped out of high school in Japan and went to Canada by myself. At the university, I was fascinated by immunology in a professor's class that I attended in my senior year and worked in the professor's lab during graduate school. As I studied the function of immune cells, I gained interest in this field and recognized the importance of vaccine research that saves people's lives. I also have thought about quitting my job many times when my child was small.
3. Even in the US and Canada, gender equality is not sufficient female researchers require more support to continue their research. In Japan, it is necessary for female researchers to foresee a career path to become a professor without being in an unstable position.
4. Role models and mentorship are essential for female researchers. In times of trouble, they need to be consulted and helped by female mentors.

Dialogue with Chair Iwasaki

COVID-19 Research

Recorded on July 28, 2021

Akiko Iwasaki
Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Michinari Hamaguchi
President, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Japan Science and Technology Agency Diversity

URL ： https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vB5FrWQ6frs

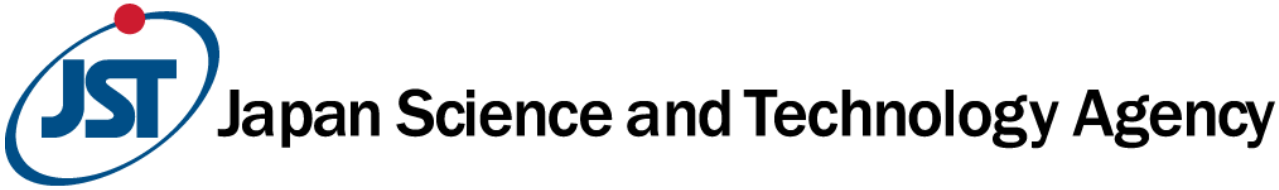
Interview Part 2 COVID-19 Research

1. The characteristic of the COVID-19 is its diversity in the severity of illness, timing of viral shedding, organs infected, and sequelae.
2. Currently, coronavirus vaccines are not equally available around the world, and a variety of variants are emerging despite unavailable of low cost and effective medication. It is difficult to control the COVID-19 pandemic by the end of the year. The key to the end of the crisis depends on how quickly the vaccine will reach around the world, including emerging countries. Because Delta variants are rapidly disseminated, an inoculation rate of 80%–90% will be required to achieve herd immunity.
3. It is necessary for scientists to actively disseminate information to the public so that each person can be vaccinated while having a correct understanding of viruses and vaccines.
4. Immune runaway reaction occurs in severe cases, but steroid administration is the only treatment effective in reducing the severity. People who are prone to severe disease are those with underlying diseases, elderly people, and males. Men tend to develop severe conditions owing to the inability of activating T cells, whereas women have an advantage in terms of immunity. The underlying mechanism is still unknown; however, hormones and X-linked genes are thought to be factors.

We have published the outline and call for application on the web.
Please see the following website for details:
https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/en/OurEfforts/mscaward/index.html

Contact
Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness, JST
Tel:+81-3-5214-8443 E-mail : diversity@jst.go.jp

Science Agora 2021



Science Agora 2021 Outline

- **Date:** Pre Agora (Sunday, 10th and Monday, 11th, October)
- **Science Agora** Wednesday, 3rd-Sunday, 7th November

* Sessions related to digitalization are planned on the Digital Days 2021.

- **Venues and access:** Science Agora 2021 will be held online.

(Live streaming will be done via Zoom webinar, Zoom Meeting, and YouTube)

- **Theme:** **Dialogue for Life**
- **Support:** Asahi Kasei Corporation/ Elsevier/ Gakken Holdings Co., Ltd./ NEC Corporation / Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation（NTT）
- **Special Collaborator:** Embassy of Switzerland in Japan
- **Cosponsor:** Cabinet office / Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry / Science Council of Japan, etc.

	2020	2021
Dates	Pre Agora: 2 days Science Agora: 8 days (10 days in total)	Pre Agora: 2 days (One month ahead) Science Agora: 5 days (7 days in total)
Number of Programs	102 sessions (Visitors: 10,574)	104 sessions
Purpose	Gather social expectations regarding science and technology and deliver them to research and development sites	

Pre Agora

2021年
デジタルの日
JAPAN
DIGITAL DAYS 2021

Seven sessions related to digital are planned in conjunction with the Japan Digital Days 2021 on 10th and 11th October

【Session by Hosts】
Workshop: Make a signage for the future and think about 2050
By HAKUHODO I-STUDIO, Science Agora Secretariat

【Special Collaborative Session】
Deepfakes: High-tech Illusions to Trick the Human Brain – Science from Switzerland
By the University of Zurich (UZH), National Institute of Informatics (NII), Science & Technology Office Tokyo, and Embassy of Switzerland in Japan

【Cooperative Session】
Roles of Cyber EXPO Creation of actions in cyber space
By the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition

Sessions related to the Digital Days are held by science communicators (SCs) at Miraikan (Tokyo) *** Only on-site sessions**

【Talk Session by SCs: Special version on the Digital Days】
October 10 and 11: “Do you know IoT? Things connect each other in a smart society”
October 10: “Groom of Choice Assistant”
【Tour with SC】
October 11: “Hands-On Model of the Internet” (Permanent exhibition)

46th Inoue Harushige Prize

Ceremony and Lectures

November 17, 2021
At JST Tokyo Headquarters

Inoue Harushige Prize

The Inoue Harushige Prize is a prize created out of consideration of the contributions that Inoue Harushige in 1976, the first president of the Research Development Corporation of Japan, one of the predecessors of JST, and the first Director-General of the Science and Technology Agency of Japan made to the advancement of science and technology in Japan and to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Research Development Corporation of Japan.

The prize is given to researchers and corporations for outstanding technology that a company has developed and commercialized using original research from a university, research institute, or similar entity and that contributes to the advancement of science and technology in Japan, economic development, and greater welfare.

Inoue Harushige Prize

About Inoue Harushige Prize

44th Inoue Harushige Prize Ceremony (July 18, 2019)

1. **Establishment:** The 1st in 1976（the 46th in 2021）

2. **Nomination Term:** December to next February

3. **Winning Technologies:** Two, as a rule（100 technologies and 200 researchers have been awarded as of September 17, 2021）

4. **Recipients:** One researcher and one corporation for each winning technology as a rule.

5. **Ceremony:** At the Industry Club of Japan Hall in the middle of July every year.

6. **Prize and Auxiliary Prize:** Award certificate, award medal, and research grant of one million yen

46th Inoue Harushige Prize

[Winners]

“Carbonate apatite artificial bone”

Researcher: Ishikawa Kunio,
Professor, Oral Rehabilitation, Kyushu University
Corporation: GC Corporation
Nakao Kiyotaka, President

“Development of an estimation technology for cooling and heating sensitivity based on thermophysiology”

Researcher: Kubo Hiroko
Professor, Division of Engineering Research,
Nara Women’s University
Corporation: Industry Company, Panasonic Corporation
Sakamoto Shinji, CEO

Today's Lecture

Dr. Ishizuka Kunio

Dr. Ishikawa Kunio

Professor, Faculty of Dental Science, Kyushu University

Research Theme: "Carbonate apatite artificial bone"

Graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University (1984); Toray Industries, Inc. (1986); Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry at Tokushima University (1988); Ph.D. in Engineering, Osaka University (1990); Visiting Scholar at University of Pennsylvania; Visiting Scholar at the National Institutes of Health (USA, 1991); Associate Professor, School of Dentistry at Okayama University(1997); Professor, Department of Biomaterials, Faculty of Dental Science, Kyushu University (2001); Researcher, National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, MEXT (2001-); The Japanese Society for Dental Materials and Devices (2002-); The Japanese Society for Biomaterials (2008-); President, International Society for Ceramics in Medicine (2019-)

Dr. Kubo Hiroko

Dr. Kubo Hiroko

Professor, Division of Engineering Research, Nara Women's University

Research Theme: "Development of an estimation technology for cooling and heating sensitivity based on thermophysiology"

Career at Nara Women's University: Graduated at Faculty of Home Economics (1984); Assistant, Faculty of Home Economics (1986); Assistant Professor, the Faculty of Human Life and Environment (1997); Professor, the Faculty of Human Life and Environment (2014)

Specialties: Architectural environmental engineering, ergonomics, and housing

Membership of Academic Societies: Architectural Institute of Japan; The Society of Heating, Air-Conditioning and Sanitary Engineers of Japan; Japanese Society of Human-Environment System; Japan Society of Home Economics (Chair of Housing subcommittee, 2019); Japan Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (Chair of KANSAI Branch, 2020)