



September 17, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Establishment of the “Marie Sklodowska Curie Award” for young female researchers

JST and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland have established an award commending young female researcher who aim to be active on the global stage.

JST recognizes the importance of initiatives designed to promote the activities of female researchers in science, technology, and innovation fields. In particular it is necessary to support female researchers in their late twenties and early thirties, when they are most expected to be active as a researcher and at the same time deal with many life events.

Therefore, we established the “Marie Sklodowska Curie Award*” named after the great female researcher who was recognized for her achievements in her early 30s and later won the Nobel Prize. The award honors her great contribution and achievements to the development of science and technology across the world, and will inspire more active participation by Japanese female researchers.

For the first Marie Sklodowska Curie Award we will accept applications on behalf of the researchers or by the researchers themselves from October 1 - December 13, 2021. The awardees will be selected through a document screening and interview process, the results are scheduled to be announced in May 2022 along with the award ceremony.

Please see Appendix and the following website for details:

URL : <https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/researcher/mscaward/>

The recording of an exclusive interview with Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor IWASAKI Akiko from Yale University, the chair of the selection committee, and Dr. HAMAGUCHI Michinari, president of JST, will be made open to the public on September 17, 2021.

* Marie Sklodowska Curie: A world-renowned researcher from Poland who discovered two novel elements, "polonium" at age 31 and "radium" at age 32. She is the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different scientific fields, Chemistry and Physics.

< Appendix >

Overview of the “Marie Sklodowska Curie Award”

< Contact >

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Overview of the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Award”

JST, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, has established an award named after Marie Skłodowska Curie (hereinafter referred to as “Marie Curie”) commending young Japanese female researchers aiming to be active on the global stage.

The Grand Prize winner will have the opportunity to visit Polish universities and research institutes, some related to Marie Curie, and have discussions with various researchers there with support of the Polish embassy and the Polish Academy of Science. By receiving a first taste of the European R&D environment in Poland, the award winner is expected to “make a leap forward” in her career prospects and gain new opportunities for international activities in her future as a researcher.

JEOL Ltd. will award 1m yen in prizes: 500k yen for the Grand Prize, and 250k yen for each Inspiration Prize.

1. Eligibility

- Early career female researchers who have obtained a PhD within the last five* years including postdoc (as of April 1, 2022), PhD students, and those who are equivalent to them.
 - * Periods away from research due to life events, such as maternity leave, are excluded from this total.
- Any research discipline related to science and technology.
- Holding Japanese citizenship.

2. Awards

- Grand Prize (for one person)
Prize pot: 500k yen
Sub Prize: Travel expenses (transportation and accommodation) to visit research institutes in Poland (Autumn of 2022, to be planned).
- Inspiration Prize (for two people)
Prize pot: 250k yen (each)

3. Selection Process

Awardees will be selected by a committee of external experts.

1) Document screening

*Two recommendation letters are required.

2) Online interviews in English

*Only those who have passed the document screening will be notified of the interview schedule.

4. Application Period

Friday, October 1 – 12:00 noon on Monday, December 13, 2021 (Japan Time)

5. Application Guidelines

To be announced on our website on October 1, 2021.

URL : <https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/researcher/mscaward/>

6. The Announcement of Awardees and Award Ceremony

Scheduled for May 2022. Details will be announced on our website.

7. Organizers and Supporters

Organizers: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan

Supporters: JEOL Ltd.

Polish Academy of Sciences

8. Selection Committee Members

| Name | Title and Institution |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 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 Hiroshi | 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 | Research Scientist, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project (AIP) Research Fellow, The University of Tokyo |

(As of Sept 17, 2021)