May 17th, 2022

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

Announcement of Winners for the First "Marie Sklodowska Curie Award"

JST has selected winners for the first Marie Sklodowska Curie Award for young female researchers (Appendix1).

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.

Based on this belief we established the "Marie Sklodowska Curie Award" in together with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to promote the activities of female researchers across the world. The award's namesake, Marie Sklodowska Curie, was recognized for her achievements in her early thirties and later won the Nobel Prize. The Marie Sklodowska Curie Award honors her great contribution and achievements to the development of science and technology across the world, and we hope her example will inspire more active participation by Japanese female researchers.

For the first Marie Sklodowska Curie Award, we accepted applications from October 1 to December 13, 2021. Through document screenings and interviews with external experts, we have selected one Grand Prize winner and two Inspiration Prize winners.

In addition, considering the effort of applicants whose quality of work is close to those of Inspiration Prize winners, we also selected one Recognition Prize winner.

JEOL Ltd. will award 1.1M yen in prizes: 500k yen for the Grand Prize, 250k yen for each Inspiration Prize and 100k yen for the Recognition Prize.

Please see the Appendices and the following website for details:

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

＜Appendix＞
  Appendix 1: The winners of the first Marie Sklodowska Curie Award
  Appendix 2: Selection committee members of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

＜Contact＞
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The Winners of the First Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

○**Grand Prize Winner**
（Prize pot: 500k yen, Sub prize: Travel expenses (transportation and accommodation) to visit research institutes in Poland）

YAMASHITA Mayuko
Assistant Professor, Research Institute of Mathematical Science, Kyoto University

＜Research field＞
Mathematics

＜Research experience＞

2019 Advanced early from a doctoral course at the Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, the University of Tokyo, to become an assistant professor at the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University

2022 Ph.D in mathematical sciences, the Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, the University of Tokyo

＜Reasons for winning＞
Dr. Yamashita specializes in noncommunicative geometry. She studies not only mathematics but also physics field theory, occupying a strong position in the academic world. She has spoken at a plenary lecture for a large international conference on mathematics. There are high expectations for her future research.

○**Inspiration Prize**
(Prize pot: 250k yen each)

KIMURA Mariko
Special postdoctoral researcher, RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research

＜Research field＞
Astrophysics

＜Research experience＞
2017 Special doctoral researcher at Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

2020 Completed doctoral course in astrophysics at Division of Physics and Astronomy, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University

2020 Special postdoctoral researcher at Extreme Natural Phenomena RIKEN Hakubi Research Team

<Reasons for winning>
Dr. Kimura's research is very original in that she tried to observe the energy emitted from the vicinity of a blackhole by combining various waves ranging from visible rays to x-rays. She has been involved in several collaborative research projects. She is known for her passion for astronomy, and is continuously searching for new problems and challenges to solve in her future research.

SHIODA Kayoko
Epidemiologist, Department of Epidemiology and Gangarosa, Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

<Research field>
Epidemiology of infectious diseases

<Research experience>
2014 Worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) until 2016

2020 Completed doctoral course in infectious diseases at Yale University

2020 Epidemiologist at Emory University
　　　Concurrent post:
　　　Statistics consultant at the World Health Organization
　　　Adjunct Associate Professor at School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University
　　　Advisor at Blue Industries Co.,Ltd.

＜Reasons for winning＞
As an expert on epidemiology and its mathematical models, Dr. Shioda has conducted collaborative research with as many as 30 countries. She also works as a statistics consultant at the World Health Organization. Her work is highly international, and her contributions to human life have been widely recognized. Her exceptional ability to communicate and present her research is expected to make her a good role model for other researchers.

○**Recognition Prize**
 (Prize pot: 100k yen)

SAITOU Marie
Principal Investigator, Centre of Integrative Genetics (CIGENE), Faculty of Biosciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

＜Specialized field＞
Evolutionary Genomics

<Research experience>
2017 Completed doctoral course in Biological Science at the Department of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo

2017 Postdoctoral fellow at University of Buffalo, The State University of New York

2020 Postdoctoral fellow at University of Chicago

2020 Principal Investigator at Centre of Integrative Genetics (CIGENE), Faculty of Biosciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

<Reasons for winning>
While studying genome informatics and genetic statistics, Dr. Saitou is also mentoring young researchers overseas. Her leadership is highly praised, and her attitude towards building networks with various people makes her a good role model for other female researchers.

Selection Committee Members

Name	Title and Institution
IWASAKI Akiko (Committee Chair)	Sterling 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	Research Scientist, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project (AIP) Research Fellow, The University of Tokyo

（As of May 17, 2022）