



May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

## **Announcement of Winners for the Second “Marie Sklodowska Curie Award”**

JST has selected winners for the second Marie Sklodowska Curie Award for young female researchers (Appendix 1).

JST recognizes the importance of initiatives designed to promote the activities of female researchers in science, technology, and innovation. 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 2021, together with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, to promote the activities of Japanese female researchers across the world. The award’s namesake, Dr. Marie Sklodowska Curie, was recognized for her achievements in her early thirties and later won two Nobel Prizes. The award honors her great contribution and achievements to the development of science and technology, and we hope her example will inspire the ambitions of Japanese female researchers.

For the second Marie Sklodowska Curie Award, we accepted applications from September 30 to December 12, 2022. Through document screenings and interviews with external experts, we have selected one Grand Prize winner and two Inspiration Prize winners.

In addition, considering the efforts of other applicants who meet the criteria for the award and deserve appreciation, we also selected one Recognition Prize winner.

JEOL Ltd. will award: 1M yen for the Grand Prize, 500K yen for each Inspiration Prize, and 300K 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 Second Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

Appendix 2: Selection Committee Members of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

### <Contact>

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## The Winners of the Second Marie Sklodowska Curie Award

### ○Grand Prize Winner

(Prize pot: 1M yen, Sub prize: Travel expenses (transportation and accommodation) to visit research institutes in Poland)

#### **ICHIKAWA Saki**

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University**

##### <Research field>

Chemical Biology, Organic Chemistry

##### <Research experience>

2019 Obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

2019 Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at  
Harvard University

##### <Reasons for winning>

Dr. Ichikawa's research uses chemical methods to elucidate various biological phenomena caused by protein modifications at the atomic level, and lays the foundation for creating new therapeutic strategies to fight cancer, neurodegenerative and other diseases. She has already contributed high-profile results to the field, and through her own bold initiative is conducting cutting-edge research both in Japan and the US while pursuing new areas of research. Now branching out from organic chemistry to chemical biology, Dr. Ichikawa is a researcher with clear vision and drive for the future.

### ○Inspiration Prize

(Prize pot: 500K yen each)

#### **KADOWAKI Mariko**

**Researcher, Research Center for Structural Materials, National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)**

##### <Research field>

Materials Science

##### <Research experience>

2018 Doctoral Course Research Fellowships (DC1), Japan Society for the Promotion of  
Science (JSPS)

2021 Ph.D in Department of Materials Science, Tohoku University

2021 Researcher, Research Center for Structural Materials, National Institute for Materials  
Science (NIMS)

##### <Reasons for winning>

Dr. Kadowaki's pioneering research focuses on the microscopic components of steel, with the goal of elucidating corrosion phenomena and creating corrosion-resistant materials for

a safer society. Her impactful results include: a real-time observation system for corrosion; clarification of the corrosion protection mechanism of iron by carbon at the atomic level; improvement of iron corrosion resistance beyond that of carbon by the use of nitrogen atoms. Through these and other achievements, her work has brought us closer to an efficient resource-recycling society. Though based in Japan, Dr. Kadowaki is rapidly expanding her network through international cooperation and has a bright future on the world stage.

**MORIYAMA Miyu**

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Immunobiology, Yale University School of Medicine**

<Research field>

Viral Immunology

<Research experience>

2017 JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC2)

2019 Ph.D in Medical Sciences, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo

2019 JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (PD)

2019 Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University School of Medicine

2021 JSPS Overseas Research Fellowship

<Reasons for winning>

Dr. Moriyama is tackling the challenge to protect humanity from viruses, contributing to our understanding of viral infections and vaccine development through her bold and original basic research. Her unique perspective on the challenge has helped elucidate the mechanisms of viral infection and the mechanisms by which immune responses are elicited by different pathways. As a rising star in immunology and vaccine research, Dr. Moriyama is actively pursuing opportunities for international joint research and has a very promising global career.

○**Recognition Prize**

(Prize pot: 300K yen)

**SASAMOTO Naoko**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School**

<Specialized field>

Molecular Epidemiology

<Research experience>

2012 Board-certified member of Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology

2017 Received MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

2017 Research Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

2020 Instructor, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

2022 Received Ph.D from Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University

2022 Assistant Professor, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

<Reasons for winning>

Dr. Sasamoto aims to control two gynecological diseases, currently difficult to diagnose at an early stage, by establishing early diagnostic methods using molecular epidemiological

methods such as proteomics/metabolomics. She has a strong research record, including several high-quality publications as first author. After working as a clinician and becoming a mother, she pursued a career as a researcher and received her M.D. in 2022. In recognition of Dr. Sasamoto's position as a role model, and as a PI (Principal Investigator) already working overseas in a field with few women, we are presenting her with a specially established award.

**Selection Committee Members  
of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Award**

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 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	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
NUMATA Keiji	Professor, Department of Material Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University / Team Leader, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science
HARADA Naomi	Professor, Center for International Collaboration, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo
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