

## Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of CiRA Awarded Nobel Prize

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, director of the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) and principal investigator of the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS) was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The prize was jointly awarded to Dr. Yamanaka and the British scientist Sir John Gurdon for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent. The discovery is anticipated to have a profound impact on the field of regenerative medicine.



President Hiroshi Matsumoto (left) Dr. Yamanaka (right)

In a press conference at Kyoto University on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Yamanaka expressed his gratitude to the colleagues, government agencies, and organizations that have supported him in his work. He also acknowledged the debt that his achievements owe to the legacy of nuclear reprogramming studies conducted by his predecessors.

Joining Dr. Yamanaka for the conference, President Hiroshi Matsumoto said that he was deeply moved by the news and conveyed his congratulations to Dr. Yamanaka.

On December 7, three days prior to the award ceremony, Dr. Yamanaka delivered his Nobel Lecture at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm together with co-awardee Sir John B. Gurdon. In a lecture peppered with his distinctive brand of humor, he described how a series of unexpected discoveries led him to the method for generating induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells). He also expressed his appreciation to his family and the fellow researchers in his laboratory for their support, as well as to his predecessors in the field who laid the foundations for his work. The hall resounded with applause when he concluded his lecture by expressing the hope that his discoveries will lead to new medical treatments that will benefit people all over the world.



Dr. Yamanaka (left) and colleague Dr. Kazutoshi Takahashi (right)

On December 10, Dr. Yamanaka received his Nobel Prize medal and diploma from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at an award ceremony held at the Stockholm Concert Hall. After the ceremony, he commented that although his past achievements had been acknowledged by the award, he is determined to persevere as he is certain that important work is yet to be done.

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