

AWARDS & HONORS

International Recognition of Kyoto University's Research

TOPIC

Kyoto University Alumnus Awarded Nobel Prize in Physics

Prof. Isamu Akasaki, a graduate of Kyoto University's Faculty of Science; professor of Nagoya University; professor of Meijo University, has been jointly awarded the 2014 Noble Prize in Physics. The prize motivation is "for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources." The prize was jointly awarded to Prof. Akasaki together with Prof. Hiroshi Amano of Nagoya University, Japan and Prof. Shuji Nakamura of the University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.



Prof. Isamu Akasaki

Prof. Akasaki became interested in Kyoto University after hearing from a graduate of his high school who enrolled Kyoto University about the atmosphere of its laboratories, its culture of encouraging creativity, and its prominent researchers.¹⁾ After enrollment, he studied analytical chemistry under Prof. Masayoshi Ishibashi. As his student life progressed, he began to feel a desire to do or create something new, no matter how small. This aspiration, together with a level of dedication and persistence seldom found in other researchers, led to his groundbreaking discovery of gallium nitride (GaN).²⁾

WEB 1) www.jsap.or.jp/apsp/oralhistory/QOBU070808.pdf, 2) www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6kTiyNMXc4

TOPIC

Two Professors Receive the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon



Prof. Ikuko Hara-Nishimura



Prof. Susumu Noda

In November 2014 the Government of Japan announced the awarding of two Kyoto University researchers with the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon (*Shiju Hōshō*). This award is conferred by the Emperor of Japan for meritorious deeds, or for excellence in the fields of science, art, or sport, including in scientific discovery and invention.

The two awardees are Prof. Ikuko Hara-Nishimura of the Graduate School of Science, awarded for her research on plant molecular cell biology, and Prof. Susumu Noda of the Graduate School of Engineering, for his research on quantum optoelectronics.

*Please refer to the following link for more information on Kyoto University researchers who have been awarded the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon: **WEB** www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/profile/intro/honor/award_b/purple_ribbon

TOPIC

Professor Kazutoshi Mori Shares Lasker Award

Prof. Kazutoshi Mori of the Graduate School of Science was awarded the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation on 8 September 2014. Prof. Mori and Prof. Peter Walter of the University of California, San Francisco, shared the award for their discoveries concerning the unfolded protein response (UPR). Prof. Mori is the seventh Japanese Lasker laureate, following Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, director of Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) and winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Since the inception of the Lasker Award in 1945, there have been seven Japanese recipients, five of whom are Kyoto University alumni and/or faculty members. In addition to Prof. Mori (2014) and Dr. Yamanaka (2009), the award has also been conferred on Profs. Yoshio Masui (1998), Yasutomi Nishizuka (1989), and Susumu Tonegawa (1987).



Profs. Mori (left) and Walter

From the Editor In recognition of their UPR discoveries, Profs. Mori and Walter were also jointly awarded the Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine in 2014 and, together with Dr. Yamanaka, the Canada Gairdner International Award in 2009.

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/events_news/department/rigaku/news/2014/140919_1.html

WEB www.upr.biophys.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/ (Mori's Lab)

TOPIC

Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa Receives JPA International Contribution Award for Distinguished Research



Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa

Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa of the Primate Research Institute was awarded the 2014 International Contribution Award for Distinguished Research by the Japanese Psychological Association (JPA) on 10 September 2014. Prof. Matsuzawa's unique research on chimpanzees paved the way for a new area of research called "comparative cognitive science," and produced internationally lauded results. The award acknowledges his major contribution to the development of psychological research in Japan.

In addition to Prof. Matsuzawa's award, Assistant Prof. Ikuma Adachi of the Primate Research Institute received this year's JPA International Contribution Award for Distinguished Early and Middle Career Contributions. The same award has previously been conferred on Prof. Satoshi Hirata of the Wild life Research Center

(2010) and Prof. Masako Myowa-Yamakoshi of the Graduate School of Education (2012).

WEB langint.pri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ai/en/news/245_2014-09-09.html

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/forefronts/matsuzawa.html (Matsuzawa's issue)

TOPIC

Professor Shigefumi Mori Elected President of the International Mathematical Union



Prof. Shigefumi Mori

Prof. Shigefumi Mori of the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences has been elected as the next President of the International Mathematical Union (IMU). The decision was made at the 17th IMU General Assembly, which took place in Gyeongju in the Republic of Korea on 10–11 August. His term will be from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018. Prof. Mori is the first IMU president from the Asian region since the organization's establishment in 1948.

The IMU is an international academic organization dedicated to promoting international cooperation in mathematics. A member of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the IMU is notable as the organization that awards the Fields Medal, often described as the “Nobel Prize of Mathematics.”

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/events_news/office/soumu/news/2014/140811_1.html

WEB www.kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/list/MORI,%20Shigefumi.html (Mori's profile)

TOPIC

Professor Takuro Mochizuki Delivers Plenary Lecture at the International Congress of Mathematicians

Prof. Takuro Mochizuki of the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences (RIMS) presented a plenary lecture at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 13–21 August. His lecture, titled “Wild Harmonic Bundles and Wild Pure Twistor D-modules,” focused on the theory with which he proved “Kashiwara’s conjecture,” a seemingly intractable problem put forth by Prof. Emer. Masaki Kashiwara of Kyoto University. The theory earned Prof. Mochizuki worldwide acclaim, and with its far-reaching scope it is anticipated to be of key importance in 21st century mathematics. In addition to Prof. Mochizuki, Prof. Takashi Kumagai of RIMS also spoke at the ICM as an invited lecturer.



Prof. Mochizuki delivers his plenary lecture



A plenary session at ICM 2014

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/events_news/department/suuri/news/2014/140820_1.html

WEB www.kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/list/takuro.html (Mochizuki's profile)

HONORS

Award Winning Researchers in Kyoto University

The following is a list of just some of the Kyoto University researchers who have received international awards — a testimony to the university's intellectually fertile environment and culture of academic freedom.

Nobel Prize *in Physics*

Hideki Yukawa (1949), **Sin-Itiro Tomonaga** (1965),
Makoto Kobayashi (2008), **Toshihide Maskawa** (2008),
Isamu Akasaki (2014)

*Photo provided by Meijo University

in Chemistry

Kenichi Fukui (1981), **Ryoji Noyori** (2001)

in Physiology or Medicine

Susumu Tonegawa (1987), **Shinya Yamanaka** (2012)

Fields Medal **Heisuke Hironaka** (1970), **Shigefumi Mori** (1990)

Gauss Prize **Kiyosi Itō** (2006)

Lasker Award **Susumu Tonegawa** (1987), **Yasutomi Nishizuka** (1989),
Yoshio Masui (1998), **Shinya Yamanaka** (2009)
Kazutoshi Mori (2014)

Japan Prize **Makoto Nagao** (2005), **Masatoshi Takeichi** (2005)

*Photos provided by the Japan Prize Foundation

Kyoto Prize **Yasutomi Nishizuka** (1992), **Chushiro Hayashi** (1995),
Kiyosi Itō (1998), **Alan Curtis Kay** (2004),
Isamu Akasaki (2009), **Shinya Yamanaka** (2010),
Masatoshi Nei (2013)

*Photos provided by the Inamori Foundation

- Die Schaudinn-Hoffmann-Plakette** ◆ **Shin-ichi Matsumoto** (1965)
- Huxley Memorial Medal** ◆ **Junichiro Itani** (1984)
- Canada Gairdner International Award** ◆ **Susumu Tonegawa** (1983), **Yasutomi Nishizuka** (1988),
Shinya Yamanaka (2009), **Kazutoshi Mori** (2009)
- Order of the White Elephant - 3rd Class** ◆ **Yoneo Ishii** (1987)
- Ross G. Harrison Prize** ◆ **Tokindo S. Okada** (1989)
- Salem Prize** ◆ **Mitsuhiro Shishikura** (1992)
- Robert Koch Prize** ◆ **Shigekazu Nagata** (1995), **Shinya Yamanaka** (2008),
Tasuku Honjo (2012)
- The Keio Medical Science Prize** ◆ **Shigetada Nakanishi** (1996), **Masatoshi Takeichi** (2001),
Koichi Tanaka (2002), **Yoshinori Fujiyoshi** (2005),
Shimon Sakaguchi (2008), **Kenji Kangawa** (2009)
- Frank Nelson Cole Prize** ◆ **Hiraku Nakazima** (2003)
- John Dawson Prize** ◆ **Tetsuya Sato** (2005)
- Yuri Gagarin Medal** ◆ **Hiroshi Matsumoto** (2006)
- Booker Gold Medal** ◆ **Hiroshi Matsumoto** (2008)
- The Ulysses Medal** ◆ **Shuh Narumiya** (2008)
- L.S.B. Leakey Prize** ◆ **Toshisada Nishida** (2008)
- Prix du Rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises** ◆ **Kazuyoshi Yoshikawa** (2010)
- de Gennes Prize** ◆ **Susumu Kitagawa** (2013)
- L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards For Women in Science** ◆ **Tomiko Yonezawa** (2005), **Kayo Inaba** (2014)

