

# HFSP Nakasone Award 2027

## Call for Nominations

Deadline: 8 February 2026

The International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSP) invites nominations for the 2027 HFSP Nakasone Award, an annual award for ground-breaking contributions and breakthrough discoveries in the Life Sciences.

The HFSP Nakasone Award rewards achievements in scientific excellence resulting in a specific discovery that has moved the frontiers of knowledge in biology.

The award recognizes the vision of former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan during his creation of the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP), whose mission is “to promote, through international cooperation, basic research focused on the elucidation of the sophisticated and complex mechanisms of living organisms.” HFSP is committed to diversity and inclusion and especially seeks nominations supporting scientists who advance greater equity and inclusion in the global scientific enterprise.

### **Scientific Merit**

The award is given for scientific excellence demonstrated by a clearly defined discovery or series of discoveries in basic life science research that dates back no more than 10 years and is in accord with HFSP’s mission to support basic research into the “complex mechanisms of living organisms.”

The 10-year period should be evident from the publications listed in the nomination document. The HFSP Nakasone Award seeks to recognize a distinct and recent breakthrough and is therefore not intended as a lifetime achievement award.

Areas have traditionally ranged from molecular and cellular approaches to biological functions, systems neuroscience, including cognitive functions. However, all levels of complexity involving mechanisms of biological phenomena or the interactions between

organisms and with the environment will be considered. Experimental, conceptual and technological breakthroughs are all eligible for the award.

The discovery or discoveries shall:

1. be frontier contributions to the life sciences dating back no more than 10 years
2. have resulted in a conceptual breakthrough that has had significant impact for scientists throughout the world
3. be identifiable via (a) specific publication(s)

### **Award**

The winner(s) will receive an unrestricted research grant of \$15,000 USD, a commemorative medal, a certificate, and an invitation to deliver the HFSP Nakasone Lecture at the 2027 HFSP Awardees Meeting.

### **Nomination Criteria**

Any scientist is welcome to respond to the open call and nominate candidates for the HFSP Nakasone Award. Both the nominator(s) and the nominee(s) may be from any country. HFSP is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and particularly encourages nominations of scientists who are women, early career researchers, individuals who are ethnically and/or racially underrepresented in the scientific enterprise, and those who hail from equity-seeking countries.

***A nomination may be for a single person or up to two scientists for the same award.***

These scientists should be co-authors on breakthrough publications or collaborators on key discoveries. Coordinated, multiple nominations for a candidate(s) will be considered as a single nomination and will be merged for the purpose of the review. ***Self-nominations are not accepted.***

Members of the HFSP Board of Trustees and Council of Scientists are not eligible for nomination and may not nominate candidates to avoid the perception of conflict of interest.

Nominations for the 2027 award will be open from 1 December 2025 and must be received via the online submission platform before 15 February 2026 at 11:59 pm CET. A list of former winners is available in the section “HFSP Nakasone Awardees” on the HSP website.

The HFSP Council of Scientists conducts the selection process, and the winners will be chosen during the meeting of the Council in April 2026.

### **Selection Procedure**

The Council of Scientists is responsible for selecting the HFSP Nakasone Award winner(s) and recommending the annual winner(s) to the HFSP Board of Trustees, which is ultimately responsible for approving the award. The selection process is as follows:

1. Council members receive all nominations and conduct an initial assessment. Members are briefed about HFSP's rules and regulations to guide their initial decision-making. Each Councilor can recommend six nominations for further consideration.
2. A first ranking is established based on the number of times a nomination is listed by Council members. This initial ranking enables the Council to further consider nominations for female scientists or for scientists from countries that previously have been underrepresented in the HFSP Nakasone Award.
3. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Council then decide on a short list that determines the number of nominations for the final assessment.
4. The Chair and Vice Chairs may advance a limited number of nominations that received fewer initial recommendations but are considered to meet the award criteria and to merit further evaluation.
5. Nominations are then assigned to two members of the Council for a final evaluation. Members are asked to prepare short written comments to support their evaluation.
6. At the annual meeting, Council rapporteurs present their assigned nominations by highlighting the scientific merits as outlined in the call for nominations.
7. A member of the HFSP Board of Trustees follows the discussion of the Council as an independent *ex officio* observer.
8. Following the discussion, Council members vote on all shortlisted nominations. The nomination with the highest number of votes is declared the winner(s).
9. The Secretariat, on behalf of the Council Chair, then prepares a recommendation of the winner (s), including a written statement by the observer, which is submitted for approval by the Board of Trustees.

## Nomination Procedure

**The call for nominations for the 2027 HFSP Nakasone Award is open from 1 December 2025 until 9 February 2026 (11:59 pm CET)**

The global scientific community is invited to submit nominations for the 2027 HFSP Nakasone Award. For that purpose, nominators can use the [Nomination Platform](#). The information required of the nominees is structured in three parts: Candidate ID, Nomination, and Nominator ID. The following fields are required to be filled in to submit a nomination:

### 1. Candidate ID

**Name** - Please insert the candidate's name. If you nominate more than one person for the award, insert each name in a different row.

**Institutional Address** - Please insert the current candidate's institutional address. If you nominate more than one person, insert each address in the same order as the candidate's name in the previous question.

**E-mail** - Please insert the current candidate's e-mail. If you nominate more than one person, insert each e-mail in the same order as the candidate's name in the first question.

**Website** - Please insert the current candidate's website. If you nominate more than one person, insert each website in the same order as the candidate's name in the first question.

### 2. Nomination

**The nomination consists of the seven sections listed below. Please complete all sections carefully to help the HFSP Council of Scientists in its assessment and to avoid unnecessary follow-up questions.**

**Citation (*Max. 50 words*)** - Please provide a short, single sentence summary of the nominee's discovery, which can be used as a citation for the award announcement. Justify your reasoning in the following sections.

**Summary of contributions (*Max. 300 words*)** - Please describe the significance and the impact of the nominee's breakthrough achievements. Why is this discovery or contribution unique?

**Description of the research breakthrough (Max. 300 words)** - Please give a brief statement of 2-3 paragraphs explaining the reason for nominating this candidate (or candidates). Please nominate according to the selection criteria above, and please emphasize your nominee's(s) specific contribution(s) as reflected in key publications.

**The nominee's standing (Max. 300 words)** - Please explain the standing and recognition of the nominated scientist(s) relative to others in this field of research.

**Co-nominees** - In case you prepare a nomination for an individual scientist, but there may be potential co-nominees (who you consider to have participated significantly in the discovery or contribution described above), please provide the names and institutions of those individuals. The Council could consider them along with the primary nominee.

**Biography (Max. 300 words)** - Please provide a short biography of up to 300 words and remember to attach the CV of the nominee(s) in the next field.

**Nominee's CV** - Please attach the CV of the nominee(s) in PDF.

**Publications** - List up to five relevant key publications (include only those in which the original idea/experiment was presented and developed).

### **3. Nominator ID**

**Nominator's Name**

**Institutional Address**

**E-mail**

**Phone**

**Website**

Nominators receive a confirmation email when they submit their nomination. The platform allows for the receipt of a copy of the information that has been submitted.

In case of difficulties submitting the nomination, nominators can get in touch with the HFSP Secretariat by email to [hfspnakasone@hgffsp.org](mailto:hfspnakasone@hgffsp.org)