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**HFSP Nakasone Award 2024  
Call for Nominations  
Deadline: 9 October 2023**

The global scientific community is invited to submit nominations for the **2024 HFSP Nakasone Award**. This annual award recognizes ground-breaking contributions and scientific excellence that have resulted in specific discoveries and advanced the frontiers of biological knowledge.

The award honours former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan, who first proposed the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSPO) mission: “to promote, through international cooperation, basic research focused on the elucidation of the sophisticated and complex mechanisms of living organisms.” Likewise, HFSP is committed to diversity and inclusion and especially seeks nominations of scientists that advance greater equity and inclusion in the global scientific enterprise.

**Award:**

The winner(s) will receive an unrestricted research grant of 15,000 USD, a commemorative medal, a certificate and will deliver the HFSP Nakasone Lecture at the 2024 HFSP Awardees Meeting.

**Nominations & Criteria:**

Any scientist interested in HFSP 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 under-represented 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 of 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 HFSPO Board of Trustees and Council of Scientists (COS) are not eligible for nomination and may not nominate candidates to avoid the perception of conflict of interest. [[1]](#footnote-1)

Nominations for the 2024 award are now open and must be received by HFSP before **9 October 2023 at 1 pm CEST** A list of former winners is on the HFSP website at <http://www.hfsp.org/awardees/hfsp-nakasone-award>. The COS conducts the selection process, and the winners will be chosen during the COS meeting in December 2023.

**Scientific Merit:**

The HFSP Nakasone Award is given for scientific excellence of a clearly defined discovery or series of discoveries in basic life science research that dates back not more than 10 years and that is in accord with HFSP’s mission to support basic research into the “complex mechanisms of living organisms.”

The 10-year period following the discovery should be evident from the publications listed in the nomination document. The HFSP Nakasone Award seeks to reward a distinct breakthrough and is not meant to be a life-time achievement award.

Award areas have ranged from molecular and cellular approaches to biological functions to systems neuroscience, including cognitive functions. That said, all levels of complexity involving mechanisms of biological phenomena or the interactions between organisms and with the environment will be considered.

Discoveries must:

1. have contributed to frontier knowledge in the life sciences;
2. have resulted in a notable conceptual breakthrough that had significant consequences for scientists throughout the world;
3. be identifiable via scientific publication.
4. be experimental, conceptual and/or technological .

**Selection procedure:**

The Council of Scientists is responsible for selecting the HFSP Nakasone Award winner(s) and recommending the annual winner(s) to the HFSPO 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 HFSPO’s rules and regulations in guiding their initial decision making. Each Councillor 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 under-represented 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. 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.
5. At the annual meeting, Council rapporteurs present their assigned nominations by highlighting the scientific merits as outlined in the call for nominations.
6. A member of the HFSPO Board of Trustees follows the discussion of the Council as an independent ex officio observer.
7. Following discussion, Council members vote on all shortlisted nominations. The nomination with the highest number of votes is declared the winner(s).
8. 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.

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**HFSP Nakasone Award 2024  
Nomination Form  
Deadline: 9 October 2023 (1 pm CEST)**

**Complete the form by answering the questions below and please try not to exceed 3 pages in all, and do not change the character type or size.**

**Candidate(s) Name:**

**Institutional Address:**

**E-mail:**

**Website:**

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

1. **Citation**: Please provide a short summary of the nominee’s discovery, which can be used as a citation for the award announcement. Back up your reasoning in the following sections.
2. **Summary of contributions**: Please describe, not exceeding more than 2 pages, the significance and the impact of the nominee’s breakthrough achievements. Why is this discovery or contribution unique?
3. **Description of the research breakthrough**: 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.
4. **The nominee’s standing**: Please explain the standing and recognition of the nominated scientist(s) relative to others in this field of research.
5. **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.
6. **Biography/CV**: Please provide a short biography of up to 300 words and remember to attach the CV of the nominee(s).
7. **Publications**: List up to **five** relevant key publications (include only those in which the original idea/experiment was presented and developed).

**Nominator:**

**Institutional Address:**

**E-mail:**

**Phone:**

**Website:**

When completed, please submit the form in Word format together with the candidate’s CV by e-mail to[**hfspnakasone@hfsp.org**](mailto:hfspnakasone@hfsp.org)by the **9 October 2023 (1 pm CEST)** deadline. After the initial screening has been completed, you may be contacted for more information.

1. The current members are listed on the HFSP website: <https://www.hfsp.org/about/governance/board-trustees> and <https://www.hfsp.org/about/governance/council-scientists>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)