

Announcement of 10 Grant Recipients for 7th Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant

Shiseido has selected 10 grant recipients for the 7th Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant, which is aimed at fostering the development of female researchers to enable them to play a leading role in the natural sciences. The announcement was made on March 7, 2014, one day prior to International Women's Day.

The recipients will each receive a grant of 1 million yen from Shiseido.

The grant presentation ceremony is scheduled to be held in June 2014 at the Shiseido Research Center in Shin-Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture.

Background to the Establishment of the Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant

As a country with few natural resources, Japan aims to be a nation built on the platform of scientific and technological creativity. This is based on the recognition that the advancement of science and technology is essential in order to contribute to the advancement of international society and contribute to the enrichment of society. At the same time, when the issue of students moving away from taking science-related courses is increasingly becoming a major concern, the securing of talented personnel is also becoming a pressing issue in the fields of science and technology. The persistently low proportion of female researchers is a major concern especially with increasing social and political demand for "womanomics". In order to address these issues, attention is being focused on how to develop and utilize female researchers.

Looking at the current situation, despite women's active participation in society, female researchers in Japan account for only 14% of total researchers which is significantly lower than in other developed countries (e.g., 38.3% in the United Kingdom and 34.3% in the United States according to the White Paper on Gender Equality 2013, Cabinet Office). Although this disparity is likely due to various factors, one of the reasons is that women are more susceptible than men to life stages such as giving birth, childcare and taking care of elderly parents, while at the same time the support infrastructure is insufficient. According to the White Paper on Gender Equality 2013, the proportion of female researchers in each field of research is as follows: 9.2% in technology, 13.0% in science, and 19.6% in agriculture. It was also noted that there is a tendency for this proportion to decrease in more senior positions.

In view of these circumstances, Shiseido established the Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant in fiscal 2007 and each year selects 10 female researchers specializing in natural science who are aiming to be leaders in their respective fields to support their research activities.

About the Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant

In order to extend support to the largest possible pool of applicants, Shiseido does not set age limits and has expanded covered research fields to encompass all natural science research. Whereas most existing research grants restrict the use of grant money to the purchase of reagents and equipment, Shiseido elected to allow these funds to be used to hire research assistants to support female researchers' ability to continue their research free of concerns about their particular life stage.

10 female researchers were selected from among more than 200 applicants by our Selection Committee which includes leaders in science as well as gender equality.

Nearly half of past recipients of this grant were promoted after receiving this grant.

Shiseido Science Café, to Support Students in Electing to Take Science-Related Courses

Shiseido is working on support activities for female junior high school and high school students with the desire to take science-related courses.

Shiseido Science Café is a program to encourage these students to take

science-related courses, in which previous science grant recipients are invited as lecturers.



List of Grant Recipients (Research Period: June 2014 – May 2015)

Name	Affiliated Institution	Post
Mariko Taniguchi-Ikeda, M.D., Ph.D.	Department of Pediatrics Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine	Assistant Professor
Shoko Utsunomiya, Ph.D.	National Institute of Informatics, Principles of Informatics Research Division	Associate Professor
Jin Gong, Ph.D.	Department of Mechanical Systems Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering Yamagata University	Project Assistant Professor
Yoko Sakata, Ph.D.	Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Kobe University	Assistant Professor
Sawako Suzuki, M.D., Ph.D.	Department of Medicine, Division of Diabetes, Metabolism and Endocrinology, Chiba University Hospital	Assistant Professor
Asuka Nanbo, Ph.D.	Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University	Associate Professor
Azusa N. Hattori, Ph.D.	The Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (ISIR), Osaka University	Assistant Professor
Megumi Hara, M.D., Ph.D.	Department of Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Saga University	Lecturer
Reina Miyagawa, Ph.D.	Nagoya Institute of Technology Master of Techno-Business Administration	Assistant Professor
Hiromi Miyoshi, Ph.D.	RIKEN Center for Advanced Photonics	Research Scientist