



News Release 15-151

President Obama honors nation's leading scientists and innovators

Nearly all awardees received NSF support during careers



The National Medal of Science is the nation's highest scientific honor.

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May 20, 2016

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The White House has awarded medals to the latest recipients of the [National Medal of Science](http://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp) and [National Medal of Technology and Innovation](http://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-programs-and-awards/national-medal-technology-and-innovation-nmti) -- the nation's highest honors for achievement and leadership in advancing the fields of science and technology.

"Science and technology are fundamental to solving some of our Nation's biggest challenges," President Obama said. "The knowledge produced by these Americans today will carry our country's legacy of innovation forward and continue to help countless others around the world. Their work is a testament to American ingenuity."

The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Awarded annually, the Medal recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering. The President receives nominations from a committee of Presidential appointees based on their extraordinary knowledge in and contributions to chemistry, engineering, computing, mathematics, and the biological, behavioral/social and physical sciences.

Among this year's nine recipients of the National Medal of Science, seven received NSF support at some point in their research careers.

NSF Director France Córdoba spoke to the laureates at a May 19 National Medals gala. "Your creativity, your invention, your curiosity is what has brought all of you here tonight -- and what has propelled our nation to leadership in science and innovation," she said.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation was created by statute in 1980 and is administered for the White House by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark Office. The award recognizes those who have made lasting contributions to America's competitiveness and quality of life and helped strengthen the Nation's technological workforce. A distinguished independent committee representing the private and public sectors submits recommendations to the President.

Six of the eight National Medal of Technology and Innovation awardees have received NSF funding.

The new recipients are listed below.

National Medal of Science

- [Armand Paul Alivisatos](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=A.+Paul&PILastName=Alivisatos&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF) <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=A.+Paul&PILastName=Alivisatos&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF>, University of California and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
- [Michael Artin](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Michael&PILastName=Artin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF) <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Michael&PILastName=Artin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF>, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Albert Bandura, Stanford University
- [Stanley Falkow](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Stanley&PILastName=Falkow&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF) <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Stanley&PILastName=Falkow&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanF>, Stanford University School of Medicine
- [Shirley Ann Jackson](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=108494) https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=108494, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- [Rakesh K. Jain](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Rakesh&PILastName=Jain&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanE) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Rakesh&PILastName=Jain&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanE>>, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital
- [Mary-Claire King](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=9209745&HistoricalAwards=false) <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=9209745&HistoricalAwards=false>, University of Washington
- [Simon Levin](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Simon&PILastName=Levin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanE) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Simon&PILastName=Levin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&BooleanE>>, Princeton University
- [Geraldine Richmond](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Geraldine&PILastName=Richmond&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&B) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Geraldine&PILastName=Richmond&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&B>>, University of Oregon

National Medal of Technology and Innovation

- [Joseph DeSimone](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Joseph&PILastName=DeSimone&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boo) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Joseph&PILastName=DeSimone&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boo>>, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and Carbon3D
- Robert Fischell, University of Maryland at College Park
- [Arthur Gossard](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Arthur&PILastName=Gossard&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Arthur&PILastName=Gossard&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea>>, University of California, Santa Barbara
- [Nancy Ho](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Nancy&PILastName=Ho&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=Purdue&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boo) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Nancy&PILastName=Ho&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=Purdue&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boo>>, Green Tech America Inc. and Purdue University
- [Chenming Hu](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Chenming&PILastName=Hu&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Chenming&PILastName=Hu&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea>>, University of California, Berkeley
- [Mark Humayun](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Mark&PILastName=Humayun&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Mark&PILastName=Humayun&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea>>, University of Southern California
- [Cato T. Laurencin](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Cato&PILastName=Laurencin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea) <<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?PIId=&PIFirstName=Cato&PILastName=Laurencin&IncludeCoPI=true&PIOrganization=&PIState=&PIZip=&PICountry=&ProgOrganization=&ProgEleCode=&Boolea>>, University of Connecticut
- Jonathan Rothberg, 4catalyzer Corporation and Yale School of Medicine

-NSF-



NSF Director France Córdova spoke at a May 19 National Medals gala.

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National Medal winners were presented with their medals at the White House.

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President Obama honored the awardees for their contributions to America.

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Related Websites

NSF National Medal of Science home: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp> <<http://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp>>

National Medals of Science and Technology Foundation: <http://nationalmedals.org/> ([/cgi-bin/good-bye?http://nationalmedals.org/](http://nationalmedals.org/))

Medal of Science fact sheet: http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=100684 <http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=100684>

NSF National Medals of Science 50th Anniversary Website: http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/medalofscience50/ <http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/medalofscience50/>

President Obama to Honor Nation's Leading Scientists and Innovators: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/22/president-obama-honor-nations-leading-scientists-and-innovators> <<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/22/president-obama-honor-nations-leading-scientists-and-innovators>>

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