

2010 Acta Materialia, Inc. Gold Medal Award

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The winner of the 2010 Acta Materialia Gold Medal Award is Professor Akihisa Inoue, President of Tohoku University at Sendai in Japan. He received his B.S. degree from Himeji Institute of Technology, and his M.S. degree from Tohoku University, both in Materials Science and Engineering. His Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering is from Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University in 1975. Dr. Inoue had been a research staff member at the Institute for Materials Research (IMR), Tohoku University, initially as a research associate, then associate professor and professor, until his appointment as President of Tohoku University in 2006. He was the Director of the Institute between 2000 and 2006, and also Vice President of Tohoku University between 2005 and 2006. As “University Professor” and Principal Investigator of World Premier International Research Center Initiative, Advanced Institute for Materials Research (WPI-AIMR) of Tohoku University since 2007, he continues research with his members in both institutes of IMR and WPI-AIMR, in addition to the presidential work at Tohoku University.



Dr. Inoue is a member of the Japan Academy (2006), Foreign Member of the U.S.A. National Academy of Engineering (2008), Honorary Doctor of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (2004), Honorary Member of the Indian Institute of Metals (2006), and Honorary Member of the Indian Materials Research Society (2001).

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Inoue has been an enthusiastic researcher, educator and administrator. He has begun his research on rapidly solidified amorphous alloys early in his career under Professor T. Masumoto, another Acta Materialia Gold Medal winner in 1998, followed by contributions in nanocrystalline alloys with improved mechanical and soft magnetic properties and manufacturability for their engineering applications. His research interests also include studies of scientifically interesting and technologically relevant structural, chemical, electronic, and magnetic properties of glassy metallic materials, in bulk or sheet form, produced by slow cooling methods. In particular, he pioneered a novel materials science and engineering field of bulk metallic glasses (BMGs) through systematic development based on the finding of an empirical component rule. This finding has enabled the discovery of several hundreds of multi-component BMGs, the developments of various bulk glassy alloys with functional properties and viscous flow

deformability, and the realization of their applications.

Among his honors/awards are the Japan Academy Prize (“in recognition of his outstanding scholarly contribution to the pioneering development of BMGs”, Japan Academy, 2002), the Kelly Lecture (“in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the exploration of BMGs and Nanocrystalline Alloys” University of Cambridge, 2003), the Japan Prime Minister Award (“in recognition of his outstanding Industry-University-Government Cooperation Achievement of BMGs”, the Ministry of Cabinet Office, 2006), and the James C. McGroddy Prize for New Materials (“in recognition of the development of slow cooling methods for the fabrication of BMGs with remarkable mechanical properties and the characterization and applications of these materials”, American Physical Society, 2009). Among his other recognitions are the Citation Laureate Award (Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), 2000), Dr. Morris Traverse Lecture (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 2008), 17 Best Paper Awards, and 13 Engineering Development Awards.

Dr. Inoue was a Visiting Scientist at AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ (1982-1983, 1984, 1986), a Visiting Researcher at the Swedish Institute for Metals, Stockholm (1985), a Visiting Scientist at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm (1988), a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Forshung Werkstoff, Dresden (1995), and an Honorary Professor at six universities in China for the past nine years. He served as Science Advisor at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Science in Japan (2001-2004), and Councilor, Trustee or Vice President of many academic associations for the past 13 years. He organized or co-organized the 8th International Conference on Rapidly Quenched and Metastable Materials (1993), the 5th International Conference on Nanostructured Materials (2000), the 11th International Symposium on Metastable, Mechanically Alloyed and Nanocrystalline Materials (2004) and the 5th International Conference on Bulk Metallic Glasses (2006) in Japan, and the MRS Fall Meeting Symposia on Bulk Metallic Glasses (1998, 2000, 2002) in Boston. He conducted 7 national research projects associated with Bulk Metallic Glasses and Nanocrystalline Alloys, and he has also been a Member of Scientific and Technological Investigation Council, MEXT of Japan (2005-present), and Vice President of the Japan Association of National Universities (2007-present).

Dr. Inoue has authored and co-authored over 2000 publications, including books, reviews, and introductory articles for general information. He has been recognized by ISI as first in worldwide ranking of highly cited authors publishing scientific papers in materials science and engineering journals for the past 11 years (1998-2008). He also holds over 200 patents.

The Acta Materialia Gold Medal is awarded annually by the Board of Governors of Acta Materialia, Inc. with partial financial support from Elsevier, Ltd. Nominees are solicited each year from the Cooperating Societies and Sponsoring Societies of Acta Materialia, Inc., based on demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research. The candidates are placed on a ballot for the selection committee (a panel of international judges who serve for three-year terms). A preferential ballot is then conducted among the judges, and the candidate with the most points is awarded the Gold Medal. The Award consists of the gold medal, an inscribed certificate, and a check for a sum of money that constitutes the Board's contribution to the award winner.

Dr. Inoue will receive his Gold Medal Award in March 2010 at a symposium to be held at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan.

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