
E PLURIBUS UNUM

THE PRESIDENT

welcomes you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

on the occasion of the presentation of

THE NATIONAL
MEDAL OF SCIENCE

AND

THE NATIONAL
MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Each of you has made the world better while making our Nation stronger, and your energy, ingenuity, and perseverance reflect the very essence of the American spirit.

The impacts of your remarkable achievements can be seen in homes, schools, and doctors' offices; in factories making products that did not exist a few years ago; and in research laboratories across our country where the technologies of tomorrow are being conceived today. The targets of your intellectual pursuits are breathtaking in scope, including the formation of human memories, the complex dynamics of our climate, the biochemical agents and predictors of disease, and the mysterious mechanics of a quantum world. Together, you have stretched the limits of human curiosity and imagination.

The prosperity of our Nation depends on thinkers and makers like you—not only because of the innovations you have helped bring to fruition, but also because of the inspiration you provide to the next generation of American scientists and engineers. The benefits of your work will resonate for many years to come.

Congratulations, again, on all you have accomplished. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

President Barack Obama

PROGRAM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Presentation of Medals

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Reception to follow

2009 NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE LAUREATES

Yakir Aharonov
Chapman University, CA

For his contributions to the foundations of quantum physics and for drawing out unexpected implications of that field ranging from the Aharonov-Bohm effect to the theory of weak measurement.

Stephen J. Benkovic
Pennsylvania State University, PA

For his research contributions in the field of bioorganic chemistry, which have changed our understanding of how enzymes function and advanced the identification of targets and strategies for drug design.

Esther M. Conwell
University of Rochester, NY

For her broad contributions to understanding electron and hole transport in semiconducting materials, which helped to enable commercial applications of semiconductor and organic electronic devices, and for extending her analysis to studying the electronic properties of DNA.

Marye Anne Fox
University of California San Diego, CA

For her research contributions in the areas of organic photochemistry and electrochemistry and for enhancing our understanding of excited-state and charge-transfer processes with interdisciplinary applications in material science, solar energy conversion, and environmental chemistry.

Susan Lee Lindquist
Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA

For her studies of protein folding, demonstrating that alternative protein conformations and aggregations can have profound and unexpected biological influences, facilitating insights in fields as wide-ranging as human disease, evolution, and biomaterials.

2009 NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE LAUREATES

Mortimer Mishkin
National Institutes of Health, MD

For his contributions to understanding the neural basis of perception and memory in primates, notably the delineation of sensory neocortical processing systems especially for vision, audition, and somatic sensation, and the organization of memory systems in the brain.

David B. Mumford
Brown University, RI

For his contributions to the field of mathematics, which fundamentally changed algebraic geometry, and for connecting mathematics to other disciplines such as computer vision and neurobiology.

Stanley B. Prusiner
University of California San Francisco, CA

For his discovery of prions, the causative agent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and other related neurodegenerative diseases, and his continuing efforts to develop effective methods for detecting and treating prion diseases.

Warren M. Washington
National Center for Atmospheric Research, CO

For his development and use of global climate models to understand climate and explain the role of human activities and natural processes in the Earth's climate system, and for his work to support a diverse science and engineering workforce.

Amnon Yariv
California Institute of Technology, CA

For foundational contributions to photonics and quantum electronics, including his demonstration of the semiconductor distributed feedback laser that underpins today's high-speed optical fiber communications.

2009 NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LAUREATES

Harry W. Coover
Eastman Chemical Company, TN

For his invention of cyanoacrylates—novel adhesives known widely to consumers as 'super glues'—which today play significant roles in medicine and industry.

Helen M. Free
Miles Laboratories, IN

For her seminal contributions to diagnostic chemistry through development of dip-and-read urinalysis, which gave rise to a technological revolution in convenient, reliable, point-of-care tests and patient self-monitoring.

Steven J. Sasson
Eastman Kodak Company, NY

For the invention of the digital camera, which has revolutionized the way images are captured, stored, and shared, creating new opportunities in commerce, education, and global communication.

Federico Faggin; Marcian E. Hoff, Jr.; and Stanley Mazor
Intel Corporation, CA

For the conception, design and application of the first microprocessor, which was commercially adopted and became the universal building block of digital electronic systems, significantly impacting the global economy and people's day-to-day lives.

THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

The National Medal of Science is the Nation's highest scientific honor. Established by Congress in 1959 and administered by the National Science Foundation, it is bestowed annually by the President of the United States on individuals deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contributions in biology, chemistry, geology, physics, mathematics, sociology, behavioral and economic sciences, and engineering. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy awarded the first Medal of Science — to the late Theodore Von Karman, then professor emeritus at the California Institute of Technology. Since then, more than four hundred fifty individuals have been awarded the Medal of Science. An independent presidentially appointed committee of scientists and engineers reviews nominations and makes its recommendations to the President, who selects the laureates.

THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the Nation's highest award for technological achievement. It recognizes American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity, and determination have made profound and lasting contributions to our economy and quality of life. Established by the Congress and administered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office within the Department of Commerce, more than one hundred eighty Medals have been awarded to individuals, team members, and companies since the first Medal of Technology was presented in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan. An independent committee representing both private and public sectors evaluates the merits of all candidates nominated through an open, competitive solicitation process. The committee forwards its recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce, who makes recommendations to the President for final decision.