

Ryoji Noyori Prize

sponsored by Takasago International Corporation
and administered by The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan

Ryoji Noyori Prize, sponsored by Takasago International Corporation, was established in 2002 by The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (SSOCJ) in commemoration of Professor Ryoji Noyori's winning of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Chemistry as well as the 60th anniversary of SSOCJ.

The purpose of the Prize is to recognize outstanding contributions to research in asymmetric synthetic chemistry defined in its broadest sense.

The International Prize Committee selects a recipient who meet the above-mentioned criteria each year, and the Prize, which consists of a certificate, a plaque, and a monetary prize of USD 10,000, is bestowed to the recipient. The award ceremony will be held at the annual general meeting of SSOCJ next February.

The Winner of the Prize for the award year 2025 is Professor Manfred Reetz, Emeritus Director and Head of the External Research Group Biocatalysis at Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Germany.

Professor Reetz has made outstanding contributions to biocatalysis and protein engineering by integrating organic chemistry with molecular biology, along with his achievements in transition metal catalysis and other organic synthesis methodologies. He pioneered the directed evolution of enzymes by developing innovative methods for the semi-rational design of biocatalysts for chemo-, regio-, and stereoselective transformations. Key techniques he introduced include the combinatorial active-site saturation test (CAST), which improves enzyme selectivity and

efficiency through targeted mutations at the active site. His advancements in high-throughput screening have accelerated enzyme optimization, making directed evolution a practical tool for asymmetric synthesis. Thus, Professor Reetz has greatly enhanced the role of biocatalysts in sustainable industry.



The past recipients:

Henri B. Kagan (2002)	Gilbert Stork (2003)
Dieter Seebach (2004)	Tsutomu Katsuki (2005)
David A. Evans (2006)	Tamio Hayashi (2007)
Andreas Pfaltz (2008)	Yoshio Okamoto (2009)
Eric N. Jacobsen (2010)	Hisashi Yamamoto (2011)
Masakatsu Shibasaki (2012)	Barry M. Trost (2013)
Dieter Enders (2014)	Larry E. Overman (2015)
Keiji Maruoka (2016)	David W. MacMillan (2017)
Yoshito Kishi (2018)	Scott E. Denmark (2019)
Tsuneo Imamoto (2020)	Erick M. Carreira (2021)
Gregory C. Fu (2022)	Kenso Soai (2023)
Thorsten Bach (2024)	

The members of the International Prize Committee for the award year 2025:

Yujiro Hayashi (Chairperson)	Erick M. Carreira
Gregory C. Fu	Benjamin List
Kyoko Nozaki	Takashi Ooi
Mikiko Sodeoka	Yasuhiro Uozumi

Call for Nominations for the Award Year 2026 (Deadline: May 1, 2026)

Any individual may nominate one individual for the award year 2026 by May 1, 2026.

The nomination form can be downloaded from the SSOCJ web site at <https://www.ssocj.jp/en/>

The documents are retained on file for three award years.

Preferred method of submittal is by e-mail attachment of the form.

e-mail address: support@ssocj.or.jp

However, submittal by express or conventional mail is also acceptable.



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