

Kimura Motoo Award List of Past Awardees

木村国際賞 過去の受賞者のリスト

The 1st Kimura Motoo Award Recipients (2016)

第一回 Kimura Motoo Award 受賞者 (2016年)

Dr. Giorgio Bernardi
(Visiting Professor, Roma Tre University, Italy)

Dr. Montgomery Slatkin
(Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, USA)

Dr. Marcus Feldman
(Burnet C. and Mildred Finley Wohlford Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Stanford University, USA)

Dr. Desmond Higgins
(Professor of Bioinformatics, School of Medicine & Medical Science, UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, Ireland)

The 2nd Kimura Motoo Award Recipients (2019)

第二回 Kimura Motoo Award 受賞者 (2019年)

Sir John Kingman F.R.S.
(Vice-Chancellor, University of Bristol, UK)

The 3rd Kimura Motoo Award Recipients (2023)

第三回 Kimura Motoo Award 受賞者 (2023年)

Dr. Richard R. Hudson
(Professor-Emeritus, University of Chicago, USA)

Dr. William F. Martin
(Professor, Heinrich Heine Universität, Dusseldorf, Germany)

The 4th Kimura Motoo Award Recipients (2024)

第四回 Kimura Motoo Award 受賞者 (2024年)

Dr. Wen-Hsiung Li
(Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica
Department of Ecology & Evolution, University of Chicago)

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Motoo Kimura (November 13, 1924 – November 13, 1994) was a Japanese biologist best known for introducing the neutral theory of molecular evolution in 1968. He became one of the most influential theoretical population geneticists. He is remembered in genetics for his innovative use of diffusion equations to calculate the probability of fixation of beneficial, deleterious, or neutral alleles. Combining theoretical population genetics with molecular evolution data, he also developed the neutral theory of molecular evolution in which genetic drift is the main force changing allele frequencies. (Adapted from Wikipedia)

The Motoo Kimura Trust Foundation for the Promotion of Evolutionary Biology



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About the Foundation

The Kimura Motoo Foundation for the Promotion of Evolutionary Biology confers an award annually on a scientist who has made significant contributions to the advancement of evolutionary biology in Japan in cooperation with the Japanese Society of Evolutionary Studies. It also makes financial support for the workshops and conferences in this field in Japan. The Kimura Award is awarded, biannually, to the researcher who conducted the outstanding works in population genetics and/or evolutionary studies.

The Statements of the Founder on its Purpose and History

Dr. Motoo Kimura was born on November 13, 1924 in Okazaki, Aichi, Japan. Dr. Kimura, who began to show interest in botany in his early childhood, had turned his interest and attention toward genetics and mathematics. After finishing his graduate school in Kyoto University, Dr. Kimura joined the National Institute of Genetics at Mishima in Japan in 1949. There, Dr. Kimura had been immensely attracted by population genetics by use of the very advanced mathematics.

Coming back to Japan from the abroad study in the United States, he proposed the neutral theory of molecular evolution, the idea that a substantial majority of nucleotide substitutions are selectively neutral. His theory has suggested that random genetic draft dominates over natural selection at the molecular level, implying that neutral mutation is a primary factor in molecular evolution.

Saluting Dr. Kimura's great achievements in evolutionary biology, this foundation was established with the major goals of supporting and promoting research and education in not only the evolutionary biology but also its related research fields of life science.

Dr. Kimura received the Culture Medal of Japan from the Japanese Government, which is the highest honor to scientists in Japan. He was also awarded the International Prize for biology that was established for commemorating the sixty-years of the Showa Emperor's time and his longtime devotion to biological research. He received many of other valuable prizes during his life time.

I hope that this Foundation makes contributions to Japan's life science.

September 24, 2004

Osamu Suzuki
CEO of Suzuki Motors Corporation
Founder of the Kimura Motoo Foundation for the Promotion Evolutionary Biology

公益信託進化学振興木村資生基金

木村基金の目的

進化学分野において優れた業績を上げた者に対して顕彰金を支給すること、および、国内で開催される進化学分野に関する講演会等の開催のための費用を援助すること。(木村資生国際賞は2年ごとに集団遺伝学や進化学の分野で世界的に卓越した研究を行った者に授与される。)

設定趣意書

1924年11月13日岡崎市に生まれ、植物が大好きだった少年時代を過ごした故木村資生博士は、数学を使った遺伝学の理論に興味を持ち、1949年国立遺伝学研究所に着任したのち集団遺伝学の研究に没頭しました。

その後、遺伝子レベルの進化はダーウィン流の自然淘汰ではなく、偶然の変異の蓄積による“運の良いものが生き残る”という「分子進化の中立説」を提唱し、その学説は二十世紀から二十一世紀へと巨大な変化を遂げつつある現代の世界史的なパラダイム転換の一翼を担っています。

このダーウィン以来最大とされる故木村資生博士の業績を記念し、また進化学や関連する分野の進歩を促進し、研究上の業績や教育上の貢献を広く一般に広めることを目的とした公益信託の設定を企画いたしました。

国際生物学賞（昭和天皇のご在位六十年にわたる生物学のご研究を記念し、世界の生物学の発展に寄与すべく設立された国際賞）など、数多くの荣誉ある賞を受賞された故木村資生博士の名のもとに、この公益信託の設定により少しでも日本の科学の発展に貢献することができれば、私どもの望外の喜びとするところであります。

平成16年9月24日

公益信託進化学振興木村資生基金
委託者
スズキ株式会社
代表取締役 鈴木修（※設定当時）