The Franklin Institute Announces The 2015 Franklin Institute Awards Laureates

Internationally Recognized Awards Honor Two Philadelphia Scientists

CBS Face the Nation moderator, Bob Schieffer to host the awards ceremony

Philadelphia November 3, 2014 — The Franklin Institute today has named nine individuals who will be recognized and honored with a prestigious Franklin Institute Award in 2015. The recipients join an extraordinary list of great men and women who have significantly improved our world with their pioneering discoveries and innovations. Among the eight Benjamin Franklin Medal recipients are two Philadelphia scientists whose combined work has led to the discovery of a new class of materials, which has implications for quantum computing. The Bower Award for Achievement in Science, which includes a $250,000 prize, one of the most significant scientific prizes in America, will be presented to Jean-Pierre Kruth, Ph.D., FSME, Fellow CIRP for his groundbreaking research in the field of additive manufacturing, or 3D printing.

Reflecting the spirit of discovery embodied by Benjamin Franklin, the awards have publicly recognized and encouraged preeminent accomplishments in science and technology on an international level since the Institute was founded in 1824. Past laureates who have come to Philadelphia to receive their medals include Thomas Edison, Marie Curie, Stephen Hawking, Jacques Cousteau, and more recently Jane Goodall, Dean Kamen, and Bill Gates. This year, Nobel Prize winner in Physics Shuji Nakamura joins 115 distinguished fellow Franklin Institute laureates who have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

The Franklin Institute Awards Ceremony is the culmination of a weeklong series of events and programs designed to shine an important spotlight on advancements in science and technology, as well as extraordinary business leadership. In addition to an array of lectures and symposia throughout the week, educational programs for area high school students and public demonstrations are designed to provide direct and unprecedented access to the laureates.

“Recognizing global breakthroughs in science and technology, and outstanding business leadership is instrumental in inspiring the next generation of great scientists and engineers,” explains Larry Dubinski, President and CEO of The Franklin Institute. “These are some of the greatest minds and most influential pioneers of our time who come to Philadelphia to receive this honor and inspire us all. They are the Franklins of today, and through their remarkable contributions, there is no question that they will inspire the Franklins of tomorrow.”

On Thursday, April 23, 2015, The Franklin Institute will celebrate science, technology, and business leadership by honoring the following individuals for their monumental and critical achievements:

2015 Bower Award for Business Leadership
To Be Announced

2015 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science
Jean-Pierre Kruth, Ph.D., FSME, Fellow CIRP
KU Leuven | Leuven, Belgium
For his pioneering research in additive manufacturing (3D printing), which led to many technological innovations and several global companies. His work has inspired further research, enabled the creation of many patents, and built the foundation for others’ businesses.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN CHEMISTRY
STEPHEN J. LIPPARD, PH.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Cambridge, Massachusetts
For his pioneering research on the role of metal atoms in biology and medicine, including the study of platinum anticancer drugs and of the structure and function of an enzyme that allows microbes to live on natural gas.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN COMPUTER AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
ELISSA L. NEWPORT, PH.D.
Georgetown University | Washington, D.C.
For her contributions to understanding the nature of human language, including the acquisition of spoken and visual language in both typically developing children and those developing in atypical environments; to characterizing critical periods for language learning; and to improving methods for language recovery after damage to the brain.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SYUKURO MANABE, PH.D.
Princeton University | Princeton, New Jersey
For his pioneering research on the sensitivity of Earth’s climate to increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and his development of global climate models, which have led to fundamental advances in the understanding of climate variability and to methods for predicting future climate change.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ROGER F. HARRINGTON, PH.D.
Syracuse University | Syracuse, New York
For pioneering an electromagnetic modeling method for accurate simulation, design, and optimization of radio wave antennas and devices, enabling advances in communications, radar imaging, and target recognition.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN LIFE SCIENCE
CORNELIA BARGMANN, PH.D.
The Rockefeller University | New York, New York
For her contributions to neurobiology that have led to major discoveries elucidating the relationship between genes, neurons, neural circuits, and behavior.

2015 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL IN PHYSICS
CHARLES L. KANE, PH.D.
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

EUGENE J. MELE, PH.D.
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
SHOUCHENG ZHANG, PH.D.
Stanford University | Stanford, California

For their groundbreaking theoretical contributions leading to the discovery of a new class of materials called topological insulators, and for their prediction of specific compounds exhibiting the novel properties expected of these new materials.

Honored in 2013 with a regional Emmy® award, The Franklin Institute Awards: Declaration of Progress video beautifully illustrates the rich history of the 190-year-old Awards Program. See the video here. For more information including photos, visit www.fi.edu/press/awards.

About The Franklin Institute
Founded in honor of America’s first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is one of America’s oldest and premier centers of science education and development in the country. Today, the Institute continues its dedication to public education and creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. Recognizing outstanding achievements in science throughout the world is one important way that the Institute honors its commitment to Benjamin Franklin’s legacy. For more information, please go to www.fi.edu/awards.