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Alan T. Waterman Award



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Alan T. Waterman Award

BACKGROUND

Congress established the Alan T. Waterman Award in August 1975 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the National Science Foundation and to honor its first Director. The annual award recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering supported by the National Science Foundation. In addition to a medal, the awardee receives a grant of \$500,000 over a three year period for scientific research or advanced study in the mathematical, physical, biological, engineering, social, or other sciences at the institution of the recipient's choice.

The Waterman Award fact sheet, prepared by the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, is available at http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=102999.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must be 35 years of age or younger or not more than 7 years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. degree by December 31 of the year in which they are nominated. For example, candidates eligible for the 2011 award must be born on or after 1975, or received their Ph.D. on or after 2003.
- Candidates should have demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in scientific or engineering research of sufficient quality to place them at the forefront of their peers. Criteria include originality, innovation, and significant impact on the field.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- Nomination packages consist of a nomination and four letters of reference submitted via FastLane <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/honawards/>
- The names of four references are required for each nomination. The references cannot come from the nominee's home institution. References must be requested by the nominator and submitted by the established FastLane deadline.
- Nominations will not be reviewed by the Committee unless all the requirements are met.
- Institutions may nominate an unlimited number of individuals.

INQUIRIES

Please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for specific questions about the award criteria or the nomination process. For any other questions, or for additional information, please contact:

Mayra N. Montrose
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4201 Wilson Boulevard, Rm. 1270
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Alan T. Waterman Award

Privacy Act and Public Burden Statements

Privacy Act Statement

The information requested on the application materials is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified applicants and may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process, and to government contractors as necessary to complete assigned work, and to a court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party.

Notice of the decision may be given to nominators, and disclosure may be made of awardees' names, home institutions, and field of study for public information purposes including press releases. See Systems of Records, NSF-12, "Fellowships and Other Awards," 63 Federal Register 265 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary; however, failure to provide full and complete information may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Public Burden Statement

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Suzanne H. Plimpton

Reports Clearance Officer

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Fact Sheet

National Science Foundation Alan T. Waterman Award



Alan T. Waterman Award
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June 15, 2009

Background. The National Science Foundation's (NSF) annual Alan T. Waterman Award honors an outstanding young U.S. scientist or engineer. The awardee receives a grant of \$500,000 over three years for scientific research or advanced study in any field of science, plus a medal and other recognition.

Public Law 94-86 of the 94th Congress established the Waterman Award in 1975 to mark the 25th anniversary of the NSF and to honor its first director, Alan T. Waterman.

Criteria. A candidate must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, 35 years of age or younger, or not more than seven years beyond receiving a Ph.D. by December 31 of the year in which nominated. The candidate should have demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in scientific or engineering research of sufficient quality to be placed at the forefront of his or her peers. Criteria also include originality, innovation and a significant impact on the individual's field.

Candidates. Nominations come from responses to a [call for nominations](#) sent to universities and colleges; scientific, engineering and other professional societies and organizations; and members of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. The solicitation is also made available on the NSF web site. Candidates are nominated on the basis of the above criteria.

Selection. The Waterman Award Committee reviews all nominations and supporting documentation, then forwards its recommendation to the NSF director and to the National Science Board for a final determination.

Recipients. Recent recipients include the following:

- 2011 - [Casey Dunn](#), Brown University, evolutionary biology
- 2010 - [Subhash Khot](#), New York University, computer science
- 2009 - [David Charbonneau](#), Harvard University, astronomy
- 2008 - [Terence Tao](#), University of California, Los Angeles, mathematics
- 2007 - [Peidong Yang](#), University of California, Berkeley, chemistry
- 2006 - [Emmanuel Candes](#), California Institute of Technology, mathematics
- 2005 - [Dalton Conley](#), New York University, sociology
- 2004 - [Kristi Anseth](#), University of Colorado, Boulder, bioengineering
- 2003 - Angelika Amon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, cell biology
- 2002 - [Erich Jarvis](#), Duke University, neurobiology
- 2001 - [Vahid Tarokh](#), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wireless communications
- 2000 - [Jennifer Doudna](#), Yale, biochemistry

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Program Contacts

Mayra N. Montrose, NSF (703) 292-4757 mmontros@nsf.gov

Related Websites

Alan T. Waterman Award Home Page: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/waterman/waterman.jsp>

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2010, its budget is about \$6.9 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives over 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly.

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