



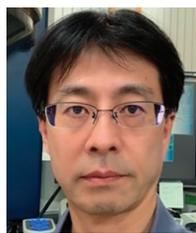
Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences

<https://jams-mineral.jp/english/jams/>

AWARDS

The Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences (JAMS) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2024 society awards. The Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences Award is presented annually to up to two scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions to mineralogical and related sciences. The Manjiro Watanabe Award—named in honor of Professor Manjiro Watanabe, a renowned Japanese mineralogist, and established at his bequest—is presented annually to one scientist in recognition of significant, career-long contributions to mineralogical and related sciences. The Sakurai Medal—named in honor of Dr. Kin-ichi Sakurai, discoverer of numerous new minerals—is awarded to a scientist whose work has made a lasting impact on the study of new minerals.

Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences Award to Naotaka Tomioka



Naotaka Tomioka is a Principal Researcher at the Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC. He received his PhD from Hokkaido University in 1999. His research specializes in transmission electron microscopy, with a primary focus on phase transformations and deformation of minerals under high-pressure and high-temperature conditions. Among his most notable achievements is elucidating the formation

processes of dense minerals in shocked meteorites, which led to the discovery of new minerals such as akimotoite and poirierite. In addition to his work on natural samples, he also conducts both static and dynamic high-pressure experiments. Through detailed microstructural and crystallographic analyses of experimental samples, Dr. Tomioka has placed new constraints on the P - T histories of shock metamorphism of ordinary and carbonaceous chondrites. These insights have also shed light on analogous processes occurring in Earth's deep interior. His research further extends to the mineralogy of samples returned from small bodies in the Solar System. In recent years, Dr. Tomioka has played a key role in the mineralogical analysis of particles from the Ryugu asteroid that were returned by the *Hayabusa2* spacecraft. Notably, he successfully constrained the shock pressures and impact velocities experienced by the asteroid. His scientific expertise and technical skills have also been widely applied in various fields of geosciences, including cosmochemistry, structural geology, biomineralogy, resource geology, and metamorphic geology. In recognition of his contributions to mineralogy, Dr. Tomioka was elected a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America in 2022.

Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences Award to Satoshi Utsunomiya



Satoshi Utsunomiya is a professor and Yushan Fellow in the Department of Geosciences at National Taiwan University (NTU). He received his PhD in mineralogy from the University of Tokyo in 2000 under Professor Takashi Murakami. He then joined the University of Michigan (USA), working with Professor Rodney Ewing as a postdoctoral fellow in nuclear engineering and radiological sciences, and later as an assistant

research scientist in geological sciences until 2007. He returned to Japan, spending 18 years at Kyushu University before recently joining NTU. Satoshi has made pioneering contributions to understanding cesium-rich microparticles (CsMPs) released during the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster. Using advanced electron microscopy and isotopic analyses, he and his team uncovered the mechanisms

of CsMP formation, the presence of fuel debris fragments, and the transport of radionuclides including uranium and plutonium. They developed quantitative methods to detect CsMPs in soil and indoor dust, providing critical insights into their environmental behavior and long-term risks. His work also examined CsMP dissolution in biological fluids, informing assessments of potential health impacts. These studies have laid the foundation for a new field of advanced nuclear forensics to investigate and manage nuclear accidents. Satoshi was elected a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America in 2013 and a Geochemistry Fellow of the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry in 2024. He received the Clair C. Patterson Medal (2024) and the MEXT Science and Technology Award (Research Category) in 2025.

Manjiro Watanabe Award to Kenji Shuto



Kenji Shuto was born in Ota-shi, Gunma Prefecture, Japan in 1944. He received a doctor of science degree in 1974 from Tokyo University of Education (Japan). His doctoral thesis, "The strontium isotopic study of the Tertiary acid volcanic rocks from the southern part of Northeast Japan" was supervised by an associate Prof. Masao Gorai. After earning his PhD, from 1981 to 2015, he worked at Niigata University (Japan). There, both

he and students performed a geological, petrological, and geochemical study of basalts in the NE Japan arc spanning an age range from 35 Ma to the present in order to investigate the nature and origin of across-arc geochemical variations over time in mantle wedge-derived magmas. They concluded that a depleted asthenospheric mantle upwelling model with interaction between asthenospheric mantle-derived magmas and overlying lithospheric mantle can explain the geochemical characteristics for the 35–0 Ma NE Japan basalts, which was summarized in a book by Dr. Shuto, *The Northeast Japan Arc-opening of the Japan Sea and Magma Genesis*- (2009, in Japanese). These results led to advanced research on the tectonic setting and generation of basalt magmas in the NE Japan arc during the pre-, syn-, and post-spreading stages of the Japan Sea back-arc basin. Dr. Shuto also devoted much effort to spreading petrological knowledge to researchers and students. As a result, several books by Dr. Shuto and coauthors have greatly contributed to studies and education related to petrological and mineralogical sciences in Japan. Since 2010, he has been an emeritus professor at Niigata University.

Sakurai Medal to Takahiro Tanaka



Takahiro Tanaka was born in Osaka in 1984. He graduated from Okayama University of Science, Faculty of Science with his BS (2007), Ehime University, Graduate School of Science and Engineering with his MS (2009), and received a Doctor of Engineering from Kyushu University (2012). His main research areas are mineralogy (particularly the description of new and rare minerals) and economic geology. Since obtaining his doctorate, he has been engaged in mineral exploration as a geologist for a mining company. In parallel with his professional work, he has continued personal research on minerals and ore deposits, contributing to the discovery of five new mineral species.

The Sakurai Medal has been awarded to Dr. Takahiro Tanaka for his discovery of michtoshiite-(Cu) (IMA CNMNC #2019-029a), a mineral found in placer material collected from a stream cutting through a

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Mineralogical Society of America



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



MSA is moving ahead rapidly with arrangements for the Inaugural MSA Annual Meeting on February 16–18, 2026 in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The meeting will follow the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and will feature a field trip on Monday, February 16, followed by a welcome reception that evening. On February 17 and 18, there will be a series of talks and poster sessions in the Turquoise Room of the Pima County Historic Courthouse in downtown Tucson. This is also the location of The University of Arizona's Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum, so a museum tour will be part of the activities. An evening reception in the Courtyard of the Courthouse on Tuesday, February 17, will be included with registration, as will breakfast and lunch on both days of the meeting. A room block is reserved at the Hampton Inn/Home2 Suites by Hilton - Tucson Downtown, which is within walking distance from the meeting venue. Registration will be through the MSA website at www.msaweb.org. For any questions and additional information, contact Ann Benbow at abenbow@minsocam.org.

We are also excited to announce a new membership category for MSA: Mineral Enthusiast! This category was voted through by the MSA Membership, and will be available for \$40/year, beginning with the October renewal season for 2026. Members in this new category will receive *Elements Magazine*, but will also have access to special benefits such as webinars, workshops, and publications designed for those who enjoy minerals and want to learn more about them. More details about the membership will be posted on the MSA website.

Sarah Penniston-Dorland

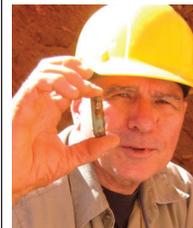
NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- 2026 Renewal Season!** MSA will start its 2026 renewal season in October. Dues are the same as in 2025: Regular Members and Fellows (\$90); Early Career Members (\$50); Mineral Enthusiast Members (\$40); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Sustaining Members (\$240 – membership plus a \$150 contribution to support MSA's many activities). You can renew via the home page of MSA's website: www.msaweb.org. At that time, we hope that you will also make a contribution to one or more of MSA's funds. These funds support our student research grants, lecture series, websites, education and outreach activities, awards, and much more.

NEW MSA COUNCIL MEMBERS

The results of the 2025 MSA Election for new MSA Council Members are now official:

2026 MSA President



Robert Bodnar, Virginia Tech

2026 MSA Vice President



Marc Hirschmann,
University of Minnesota

2026 MSA Councilor I



Cara Santelli, University of Minnesota

2026 MSA Councilor II



Lars Stixrude, University of California,
Los Angeles

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clinopyroxenite mass within a serpentinite mélange of the Kurosegawa Belt in Misato Machi, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan. Michitoshiite-(Cu) is a mineral that, in the ideal formula $\text{Rh}(\text{Cu}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x)$ $0 < x \leq 0.5$, can adopt ordered crystal structures such as bcc-type, CsCl-type, or Heusler-type. No natural occurrence of a material corresponding to this mineral had previously been confirmed, nor had it been known from synthetic experiments. Due to its rarity, its description was carried out using both field-collected specimens and synthetic samples obtained through laboratory experiments. In recognition of his significant contributions to mineralogy and ore deposit study, the mineral was named michitoshiite-(Cu) in honor of Professor Michitoshi Miyahisa of Ehime University (1928, Oita Prefecture – 1983).

DID YOU KNOW?

MSA has vibrant social media presence, thanks to the efforts of the MSA Communications Committee chaired by Dr. Andrea Koziol. The Communications Committee also includes Thomas Hale, Rachelle Turnier, Clem Hamelin, Reto Giere, Sarah Mazza, and Chenguang Sun. We are on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and now on Bluesky. Two social media campaigns that the committee has launched include #MineralMonday and Thin Section Thursday. We also have a number of videos on our YouTube Channel that feature topics such as careers in mineralogy, mineral photography, Martian mineralogy, gemology, mineral evolution, awards speeches, and much more. The link to the YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/@mineralogicalsocietyofamer6947>. Check it out!