

# Research Center for Science Systems

The Center was established within JSPS to ensure that, as a funding agency, JSPS conducts the screening and assessment functions of its grant and fellowship programs in a fair, equitable and highly transparent manner and to reflect researchers' expertise in these functions.

The Center was established based on the recommendations of a report entitled "System Reform in Competitive Research Funding" issued by the Council for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office.

## Framework

The Center is staffed with frontline researchers in cutting-edge fields at Japanese universities and research institutions.

Nine research groups are established within the Center. Each group has assigned to it program officers, who work under a system that allows them to respond flexibly to JSPS's needs. The staff includes 17 senior program officers and 93 program officers, as shown in the table below.

## Functions

The Center performs the following three main functions.

### (1) Supervises application screening and project assessment for JSPS programs

This includes preparing lists of examiner candidates and chairing review committees under the Grants-in-Aid Program; preparing lists of examiner candidates under the Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program and JSPS's international programs; and screening candidates for the JSPS Prize.

### (2) Provides recommendations and advice to JSPS's administration

Two working groups have been established, one on "Research Fellowships for Young Scientists" and the other on "Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research." They are working to improve their respective JSPS programs.

### (3) Conducts Surveys

The staff conducts surveys of science-promotion policies and research trends. The results of these surveys are applied by JSPS to enhancing program quality, improving screening and assessments, and designing future programs.

## Website

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-center/index.html>

## Program Groups and Their Leading Program Officers

Program Groups		Senior Program Officers
Humanities		Muneo Tokunaga
		Yasunori Kegasawa
Social Sciences		Toshiyuki Kono
		Hidenori Fujita
Mathematical and Physical Sciences		Masanori Ie
		Katsumi Tanimura
Chemistry		Gunji Saito
		Michiko Konno
Engineering Sciences		Masayuki Numao
		Yasuhiko Arakawa
Biological Sciences		Hiroo Fukuda
		Akio Matsukage
Agricultural Sciences		Hitoshi Saka
		Tomoyuki Yamaya
Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Science		Kazuhiko Yamamoto
		Hideo Utsumi
Interdisciplinary and Frontier Sciences Group		Masayuki Numao (Conducted jointly with Engineering Sciences Group)
Program Improvement Working Groups	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	Eiichi Nakamura
	JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists	Hideo Utsumi (Conducted jointly with Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Science Group)