



NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SINGAPORE

Global Young Scientists Summit 2026 draws record number of young researchers worldwide

SINGAPORE – Over 400 young researchers from 57 countries will gather in Singapore from 5-9 January for the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) 2026, organised by the National Research Foundation, Singapore (NRF). This is the largest number of participants at GYSS since its inauguration in 2013.

GYSS' mission is to inspire the next generation of scientific leaders by providing unique opportunities for promising young scientists from Singapore and around the world to engage directly with eminent scientists, including Nobel Laureates. Twenty-one research luminaries will be gracing this year's Summit.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development), said “Talent is what drives research and innovation. Research leaders come from young talented scientists who develop the ambition and motivation to push the frontiers of knowledge and the horizons of their application. The GYSS seeks to catalyse this crucial process by exposing promising young minds from around the world to some of the most accomplished scientists of our time.”

Immersive programme designed to inspire and engage young researchers

Through the course of the five-day GYSS programme, the young scientists will engage in twenty plenary lectures, four interactive panel discussions, and more than ten small group fireside chat sessions, which cover diverse scientific fields from quantum technology and artificial intelligence to neuroscience and chemistry.

Participants will also have the opportunity to visit leading research laboratories at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), the Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE), the National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU), and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

Catalysing connections and career growth

GYSS 2026 is designed to be highly participatory with many interactive sessions that foster dialogue between rising researchers and established leaders across disciplines. In line with this, participants can:

- **Present and showcase their work** through poster presentation sessions and quickfire pitch segments, allowing researchers to articulate their ideas and receive feedback from peers and experts.
- **Engage in Q&A and thematic conversations** during panel huddles, where leading scientists unpack key trends and future directions in science and technology.
- **Participate in small group fireside chats** with laureates, which create opportunities for mentorship, career guidance, and discussion of individual research interests.
- **Connect across fields and regions** at dedicated networking events.

Participating as a speaker for the first time at the Summit, **Professor David Baker, 2024 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry**, said, “Attending the Global Young Scientists Summit offers a valuable opportunity to engage with bright, emerging researchers in science and technology. It’s a chance to exchange ideas and perspectives that can spark meaningful collaborations and contribute to the advancement of scientific progress.”

“The GYSS offers young researchers a unique platform not only to learn from but also to engage directly with some of the world’s leading scientific minds,” said **Professor Kae Nemoto**, Centre Director of the OIST Centre for Quantum Technology in Okinawa and Director of the Global Research Centre for Quantum Information Science in Tokyo, who is also a first-time speaker at GYSS. “It’s an invaluable opportunity for young researchers to immerse themselves in cutting-edge discussions, receive mentorship, and forge meaningful connections that can shape their careers and foster collaborations that last well beyond the Summit itself.”

Plenary lectures and panel huddles on cutting-edge science

At GYSS 2026, some of the world’s foremost scientists will share their groundbreaking research and innovative ideas in twenty plenary lectures. This includes a plenary by Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan (2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry), titled “Why We Die,” which will delve into the latest biological understanding of why organisms age and die and examine the scientific advances that are reshaping our knowledge of ageing, longevity and the potential to extend healthy lifespans. His talk will highlight how breakthroughs in ageing research are transforming what was once a philosophical question into a rigorous scientific pursuit.

Another highlight is Professor Joan Rose’s (2016 Stockholm Water Prize) plenary on the critical issue of water quality and sustainability in her lecture “Advancing Genetic Pollution Diagnostics for Healthy Waters.” Prof Rose will discuss the accelerating global water pollution crisis, exacerbated by climate change, population growth, and increased industrial activities.

In addition to the plenary lectures, GYSS 2026 will feature four panel huddles that provide young researchers with opportunities to engage in lively and thought-provoking discussions on some of today’s most pressing scientific challenges.

These panel huddles will cover a wide range of important topics, such as how AI is shaping the future of research and technology. Another session will explore the future of computational power, where panellists will compare supercomputing and quantum computing and their potential to revolutionise industries.

For more info, please see:

- **Annex A** for the list of panel huddles;
- **Annex B** for the full list of laureates; and
- **GYSS official website** for the programme, details of laureates and other GYSS activities.

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About the Global Young Scientists Summit

The Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) is an international gathering of bright young researchers from all over the world in Singapore, who will be mentored by eminent scientists over a five-day Summit. The Summit will discuss the latest advances in science and technology, and how research can develop solutions to address major global challenges. It is a multi-disciplinary event covering the disciplines of chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, computer science and engineering.

Organised by the National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF), GYSS is supported by the Ministry of Education, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore Management University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and Science Centre Singapore. Other close collaborators for this edition of GYSS include SGInnovate, Hwa Chong Institution, Foundation Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, Heidelberg Laureate Form, and Technology Academy Finland.

For more info on the GYSS please visit: <https://gyss.nrf.gov.sg>

About the National Research Foundation

The National Research Foundation, Singapore (NRF), set up on 1 January 2006, is a department within the Prime Minister's Office. The NRF sets the national direction for research and development (R&D) by developing policies, plans and strategies for research, innovation and enterprise. It also funds strategic initiatives and builds up R&D capabilities by nurturing research talent.

Learn more about the NRF at <https://www.nrf.gov.sg>

Panel Huddles

Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Breaking Barriers, Leading Change: Challenges in STEM

Laureates: Professor Donna Strickland, Professor Joan Rose, Professor Kae Nemoto, Dr Patricia Lee

Moderator: Professor Lisa Ng

Wednesday, 7 January 2026

Geopolitics to Genomics: Concurring Minds in a Multipolar World

Laureates: Professor Randy Schekman, Professor Brian Schmidt, Professor Aaron Clechanover, Professor Kae Nemoto

Moderator: Dr Cheong Wei Yang

Thursday, 8 January 2026

Supercomputing and Quantum: Redefining the Future

Laureates: Professor Torsten Hoefler, Professor Jack Dongarra, Professor Adi Shamir, Professor Kae Nemoto, Dr Patricia Lee

Moderator: Professor Tulika Mitra

Friday, 9 January 2026

Brains and Bytes: Levelling Up Research in the Age of GenAI

Laureates: Sir Tim Hunt, Sir Konstantin Novoselov, Dr Patricia Lee, Sir David Klenerman

Moderator: Professor Simon Chesterman

Annex B

1. Professor Kurt Wüthrich, 2002 Chemistry Nobel Prize
2. Prof Aaron Ciechanover, 2004 Chemistry Nobel Prize
3. Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, 2009 Chemistry Nobel Prize
4. Professor David Baker, 2024 Chemistry Nobel Prize
5. Sir Konstantin Novoselov, 2010 Physics Nobel Prize
6. Professor Brian Schmidt, 2011 Physics Nobel Prize
7. Professor Takaaki Kajita, 2015 Physics Nobel Prize
8. Professor Duncan Haldane, 2016 Physics Nobel Prize
9. Professor Donna Strickland, 2018 Physics Nobel Prize
10. Sir Richard Roberts, 1993 Physiology/Medicine Nobel Prize
11. Sir Tim Hunt, 2001 Physiology/Medicine Nobel Prize
12. Professor Randy Schekman, 2013 Physiology/Medicine Nobel Prize
13. Sir David Klenerman, 2020 Millennium Technology Prize
14. Professor Bantval Jayant Baliga, 2024 Millennium Technology Prize
15. Professor Adi Shamir, 2002 Turing Award
16. Professor Leslie Valiant, 2010 Turing Award
17. Professor Jack Dongarra, 2021 Turing Award
18. Professor Torsten Hoeftler, 2024 ACM Prize in Computing
19. Professor Joan Rose, 2016 Stockholm Water Prize
20. Professor Kae Nemoto, Guest Speaker, Director of the Global Research Center for Quantum Information Science at the National Institute of Informatics
21. Dr Patricia Lee, Chief Scientist for Hardware Technology Development, Quantinuum