

The Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) would like to recognize outstanding merit on the part of our, students, postdoctoral scholars and faculty. Toward this goal, an awards committee was established and is now soliciting nominations for five awards. Each award will include a certificate and cash honorarium. In addition, a plaque bearing the names of the recipient of each award will be placed on display in a prominent location. The awards, a description of each award, and the materials requested to evaluate nominees is summarized below. Nominations will be accepted until May 31st and we expect that the awards will be made at a ceremony at the beginning of the next academic year. All nominations should be sent to Mr. Tom McHugh at tmchugh@som.umaryland.edu.

The Otani Award

The Otani award commemorates Elaine Miye Otani. She was a student who stood for hard work and perseverance with an intense interest in her field of study. She was especially interested in the mechanisms of cellular differentiation and carcinogenesis. Yet she found time to spread her friendship and goodwill among those around her, trying at the same time to inspire them in their studies. Her family set up this living memorial as a tribute to her and her aspirations.

This award will be given annually to the graduate student in GPILS of outstanding character who demonstrates superior academic performance and who shows outstanding promise as an independent investigator. The student must have a consistent record of service and support to the overall goals of GPILS by stimulating interest in and attempting to improve the quality of academic studies among fellow students in GPILS. In summary, the recipient of this award should show evidence of a good working relationship with peers and GPILS faculty and have earned the esteem of others. Nominees for the Otani award must have successfully completed the Qualifying Examination and submitted a research proposal to the advisory committee.

The Program Directors for each of the graduate programs in GPILS are asked to work with their internal training committees to nominate appropriate students for the award. More than one individual may be nominated but they must meet the above mentioned criteria.

- A statement from the GPILS Program Director explaining why the student is being nominated.
- A letter from the nominee's faculty mentor or another appropriate faculty.
- A current curriculum vitae.

Outstanding PhD Thesis Project

We invite each program to nominate one person for this award. Nominations for this award should be limited to students who have completed their dissertation projects or who will defend before the end of the Spring semester. The letters of recommendation should focus on a description of the significance of the work in the specific field of study and science in general.

The following items are requested by the committee

- A letter of recommendation from the GPILS Program Director
- A letter from the nominees "outside committee member" (who may be in the same Program but outside the immediate field of study)
- A current curriculum vitae
- An abstract summarizing the overall dissertation project (written by the nominee)

Outstanding PhD Scholar Award

Each program is invited to nominate one person for this award. This award is intended to recognize students who have not yet advanced to candidacy. Nominations for this award should be students with outstanding academic performances who show great potential as scientists. In addition to the nomination letter, two support letters are requested. These letters may come from anyone but letters from individuals who have served as mentors on the student rotations, or members of the student's academic advisory committee are strongly recommended. The following items are requested by the committee

- A nomination letter
- A current curriculum vitae
- Two letters of support

Outstanding Postdoctoral Scholar

Each GPILS program and each affiliated Department in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and UMBI are invited to nominate one Postdoctoral Scholar who shows an outstanding record of professional development and exceptional promise as an independent investigator. The supporting letters should address the significance of the nominee's work in context of the specific discipline and science in general. The nomination should include:

- Nomination Letter from Program Director. Departmental Chair or Division Chief
- Additional Letter of Support from Mentor or other Faculty
- A current curriculum vitae
- Abstract summarizing the overall work and its significance in the field (written by the nominee)

Teacher of the Year

Students and Faculty are invited to nominate outstanding educators for this award. The nominee must be a member of the Graduate faculty and at least one Program in GPILS. The nomination requires a succinct letter of recommendation supporting the nomination and may come from anyone affiliated with the GPILS program.