



March 9, 2000

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## Hopkins Researcher Receives Presidential Early Career Award

### Highest Honor Bestowed by U.S. on Young Scientists, Engineers

Xiaoqin Wang, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University assistant professor, has been awarded the coveted Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The Presidential Awards are intended to recognize young scientists and engineers who "show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the twenty-first century."

Wang's work is aimed at achieving a better understanding of speech perception mechanisms in the part of the brain called the cerebral cortex in order to design more effective hearing devices for the hearing-impaired.

He received the honor "for outstanding contributions to the field of auditory neurobiology" and for pioneering "innovative physiological and computational approaches to further our understanding of vocal communications mechanisms."

"Understanding brain mechanisms for vocal communications is one of the most challenging problems in neuroscience," Wang said. "I'm deeply honored by this award and gratified by the Federal Government's support for our work to better understand these mechanisms."

Wang has appointments in the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Neuroscience, and is a member of the Hopkins Research and Training Center for Hearing and Balance.

He received his Ph.D. in the fields of biomedical engineering and auditory neurophysiology from Hopkins in 1991, then did postdoctoral work at the University of California, San Francisco, from 1991 to 1995, returning to Hopkins in 1995.

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**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: 202/456-6108**

**April 11, 2000**

#### **PRESIDENT HONORS OUTSTANDING YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

President Clinton today named 60 young researchers as recipients of the fourth annual Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. The researchers will receive their awards tomorrow in a White House ceremony.

These awards, established by President Clinton in February 1996, embody the high priority the Administration places on producing outstanding scientists and engineers ready to contribute to all sectors of the economy. Eight Federal departments and agencies join together annually to nominate the most meritorious young scientists and engineers who will broadly advance the science and technology that will be of the greatest benefit to fulfilling the agencies' missions.

"We honor these outstanding young scientists and engineers for their research contributions, for their promise, and for their commitment to broader societal goals," President Clinton said. "They will do much to shape our society and advance our national interests in the twenty-first century."

The young scientists and engineers receive up to a five-year research grant to further their study in support of critical government missions. The Federal agencies involved are: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation.

The recipients are:

##### Department of Agriculture

Dr. Ann M. Donoghue, Livestock & Poultry Sciences Institute, Beltsville, MD  
Dr. Emile S. Gardiner, U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station  
Dr. Smita Mohanty, SUNY at Stony Brook

##### Department of Commerce

Dr. Pamela M. Chu, National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Dr. John G. W. Kelley, NOAA/National Ocean Service  
Dr. Nathan J. Mantua, University of Washington  
Dr. Eric L. Shirley, National Institute of Standards and Technology

##### Department of Defense

Dr. Jeffrey Todd Borggaard, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Dr. Gert Cauwenberghs, Johns Hopkins University  
Dr. Aaron W. Harper, Texas A&M University  
Dr. Daphne Koller, Stanford University  
Dr. Kathryn A. Moler, Stanford University  
Dr. Kimberly M. Wasserman, University of Michigan

##### Department of Energy

Dr. Xian Chen, Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Dr. Ken R. Czerwinski, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Dr. David M. Ford, Texas A&M University  
Dr. Kenneth M. Kemner, Argonne National Laboratory  
Dr. John F. Mitchell, Argonne National Laboratory  
Dr. Lynne E. Parker, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Dr. Gennady Shvets, Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Dr. Mary C. Nakamura, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco  
Dr. Peter A. Ubel, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Philadelphia

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Dr. Waleed Abdalati, Goddard Space Flight Center  
Dr. Gregory P. Asner, University of Colorado  
Dr. Michael Loewenberg, Yale University School of Medicine  
Dr. Fiona Anne Harrison, California Institute of Technology  
Dr. Preete Verghese, Smith Kettewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco

National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Linda A. Barlow, University of Denver  
Dr. Annelise E. Barron, Northwestern University  
Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi, University of California, Berkeley  
Dr. Janean Holden, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Dr. Judith A. James, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City  
Dr. Cecilia B. Moens, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle  
Dr. Marina A. Picciotto, Yale University School of Medicine  
Dr. Geraldine C. Seydoux, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Dr. Ida Sim, University of California, San Francisco  
Dr. Ronald Marc Summers, Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, NIH  
Dr. David William Russell, University of Washington  
Dr. Weidong Wang, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD  
Dr. Xiaoqin Wang, Johns Hopkins University

National Science Foundation

Dr. Linnea M. Avallone, University of Colorado  
Dr. John Chapin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Dr. Donald DeVoe, University of Maryland, College Park  
Dr. Brenda L. Dingus, University of Wisconsin  
Dr. Dennis E. Discher, University of Pennsylvania  
Dr. Richard J. Elston, University of Florida  
Dr. Steven C. George, University of California, Irvine  
Dr. Lori L. Graham, University of Virginia  
Dr. Victoria L. Interrante, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Dr. Predrag Jelenkovic, Columbia University  
Dr. Yishi Jin, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Dr. Felicia Keesing, Siena College  
Dr. Steven D. Levitt, University of Chicago  
Dr. Todd L. Lowary, Ohio State University  
Dr. Ken Ono, Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
Dr. Fenjosky Pena-Mora, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Dr. Sanjay Raman, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Dr. Richard W. Roberts, California Institute of Technology

Dr. Jeffrey S. Urbach, Georgetown University  
Dr. Zhuomin Zhang, University of Florida

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