

# The Interstellar Initiative

## Overview

The *Interstellar Initiative* recognizes the most promising Early Career Investigators (ECIs) from around the world and connects them with peers, in related but distinct disciplines, providing a platform for them to develop a solution to a major research question. ECIs are grouped into teams of three and asked to develop a research proposal under the guidance of expert Mentors. Proposals are further developed and refined through two workshops, and prepared for submission to international funding opportunities.

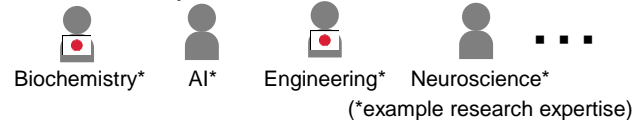
### Mentors and ECIs

#### Mentor

Expert guidance

#### ECIs

- Outstanding investigators from around the world and from various research fields are invited to guide the ECI's interdisciplinary discussions.
- Mentors support ECI's in forming their research plan.



- Promising researchers from around the world are recruited via open call (they must have obtained their last doctoral degree within the past 10 years to be eligible).
- ECIs form international & interdisciplinary teams of three researchers, including one from Japan.
- ECIs finalize their research proposals with their Mentor's guidance, and submit them to international research grant opportunities.



### Aims of the two workshops

First workshop

Develop research proposal

Teams receive funding to enhance their proposal

Second workshop

Refine research proposal

Teams submit their research proposals to international funding opportunities (HFSP\* etc.)



**\*HFSP** (Human Frontier Science Program)

An international program of funding for frontier research in the life sciences, established in 1989. Japan advocated its establishment at the Venice Summit in 1987.

# Interstellar Initiative and Beyond

The Interstellar Initiative Beyond is designed to support the development of more complete research concepts by teams, which are self-formed, aiming to win international research grants to continue their collaboration. Furthermore, past participants (“Alumni”) of the Interstellar Initiative are offered further networking opportunities, in which they can continue to benefit from the experience of collaboration as part of an international and interdisciplinary team.

