

**People's corner: award****Hiroaki Shimokawa receives Medical Award of the Japan Medical Association for his basic and clinical studies on ischaemic heart disease**

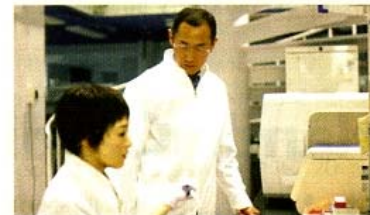
Prof. H. Shimokawa of Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine was presented with the 2012 Medical Award of the Japan Medical Association on 1 November 2012 at the Japan Medical Association Hall, Tokyo, Japan.

The award is conferred annually to members that have contributed important achievements in the disciplines of basic medicine, social medicine, and clinical medicine with one winner selected from each category (the 2012 award for clinical medicine was awarded to two winners). Prof. Shimokawa's research, 'Basic and clinical studies on ischemic heart disease in the Japanese', includes the elucidation of the molecular mechanisms of coronary artery spasm, the identification of endothelium-derived hyperpolarizing factor, and the development of low-energy extracorporeal cardiac shock wave therapy. His research was highly appraised and selected for the prize. He follows in the footsteps of countryman Shinya Yamanaka, who in 2012 received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine jointly with Sir John B. Gurdon 'for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent'.

Shimokawa's research interests include ischaemic heart disease, endothelial biology, heart failure, and pulmonary hypertension. Since 2008 he has been editor-in-chief of *Circulation Journal* the journal of the Japanese Circulation Society. His wife Hiroko is also a physician and he is the proud father of two sons, Tomonori and Eriko.



**Hiroaki Shimokawa**



**Shinya Yamanaka teaching Kyoto**

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