

SSIC × CSHA "Synthesizing the Future" Youth Innovation Award

SSIC × CSHA "Synthesizing the Future" Youth Innovation Award

1. Award Vision

Biotechnology is reshaping our world at an unprecedented pace. Jointly launched by the **Shanghai SynBio Innovation Center (SSIC)** and **Cold Spring Harbor Asia (CSHA)**, this award honors young scientists who demonstrate exceptional innovation in synthetic biology and its interdisciplinary frontiers. We seek more than just academic publishers; we are looking for **inventors of technology and shapers of the future**—pioneers who possess the potential to translate complex biotechnology from the laboratory into impact on human wellbeing, transforming the world through bio-engineering while creating significant economic value.

2. Core Selection Criteria: The Four Dimensions of Transformation

We evaluate the comprehensive potential of candidates through the following four dimensions:

- **Technical Breakthrough:** Has the candidate developed original "0-to-1" biological tools, algorithms, or chassis cells? Does the work significantly outperform existing paradigms or solve long-standing technical bottlenecks in the industry?
- **Translational Momentum:** Does the research have a clear pathway to industrialization? We assess the feasibility of applying the technology in sectors such as biopharmaceuticals, green manufacturing, and agri-food, as well as its potential for economic value creation and scalability.
- **Purpose-Driven Impact:** Is the technology dedicated to addressing global challenges? Examples include reducing the cost of treating major diseases, achieving carbon neutrality, ensuring food security, or enhancing human quality of life.
- **Creative Leadership:** Does the applicant demonstrate leadership in interdisciplinary collaboration? Do they possess the keen market insight required to bridge the "Valley of Death" and push scientific discoveries toward real-world applications?

3. Selection and Rewards

- **Selection Process:** A joint review committee comprised of experts from **SSIC** and **CSHA** will evaluate candidates based on participant profiles and a dedicated award application form.
- **Award Quota:** For each collaborative CSHA meeting or course, the joint committee will select **3 to 5 laureates**.
- **Financial Support:** Winners will be granted a specialized innovation prize, the value of which is approximately equivalent to the registration or tuition fees of the specific meeting or course.
- **Ecosystem Empowerment:** Laureates will be invited to join the **SSIC Young Scientist Network**, gaining priority access to the center's platform support, mentorship from industrial experts, and networking opportunities with venture capital and project financing.

Application & Nomination Form

Section	Requirements & Guidance
1. Basic Information	Full Name, Affiliation/Organization, Current Position/Academic Year, Contact Email/Phone, and the Name of the CSHA Meeting/Course attended.
2. Executive Summary of Innovation	Please provide a concise summary of your core research achievement (max 300 words). Focus on the originality and the primary technical leap.
3. Technical Breakthroughs	Compared to existing solutions, what specific "pain points" does your research address? Highlight any core patents, proprietary algorithms, or unique biological parts.
4. Industrialization & Economic Value	How does this technology transition from the lab to impact on human wellbeing? Describe potential application scenarios, estimated market scale, and your vision for commercialization.
5. Societal Impact & Sustainability	How does your technology address global challenges? (e.g., reducing healthcare costs, carbon neutrality, food security, or improving quality of life).
6. Supporting Materials (Appendices)	Please attach representative papers, patent filing/grant notices, executive summaries of business plans (if applicable), or letters of recommendation.