

The G.A. Gamow Award is founded by the Russian-American Science Association (RASA-America) in memory of the outstanding Russian-American physicist, Professor George Antonovich Gamow (1904-1968), to recognize members of the Russian-speaking scientific diaspora for outstanding contributions to science, which are recognized by the broad scientific community.

Laureates of 2020 George Gamow Award

Yury Georgievich Gogotsi, Professor, Drexel University, for discovery and synthesis of nanomaterials with tunable structure and longstanding contributions to the development of international collaboration.

Mikhail Dmitrievich Lukin, Professor, Harvard University, for pioneering contributions to quantum physics, including quantum computing, and for the contributions to the development of the Russian Quantum Center.

“I am a native of the USSR, like George Gamow. Moreover, we were both born in Ukraine - he was from Odessa (so was my grandfather), and I am from Kiev, and we built our scientific careers in USA. When I received my graduate degree and defended the Ph.D. thesis at the Kiev Polytechnic Institute, and even when I left for Germany on the Humboldt scholarship in 1990, it was still USSR time. But when one enters the world of science, the national boundaries disappear - scientific discoveries are shared by all humanity. It is very important that RASA-America includes scientists from the former Soviet Union, regardless of their nationality and political views. My compatriot Igor Sikorsky built his helicopter in the USA, but my alma mater Kiev Polytechnic Institute - bears his name. I am currently participating in a European project with colleagues from Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus. Over the years, my research group had graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Ukraine, Russia, Armenia and Kazakhstan (as well as from over 20 other countries). I believe in the unifying power of science!” - said Yury Gogotsi

“ The fate and the scientific legacy of Georgy Gamow - which rightfully belongs to all mankind - is indeed an inspiring example for scientists from all over the world ”- said Mikhail Lukin.

The prizes will be awarded on December 5-6, 2020 at the virtual RASA World Conference, which will feature presentations of the Russian-speaking scientific diaspora from all over the world.



Yury Gogotsi graduated from the Kiev Polytechnic Institute, where he also received his PhD, and defended his doctoral dissertation at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He is Charles T. and Ruth M. Bach Distinguished University Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Drexel University, Director and founder of the A.J. Drexel Nanomaterials Institute. Among his scientific achievements is the development of new methods for synthesis of nanostructured carbons by selective etching of metal carbides and the first microscopic studies of water in carbon nanotubes. He has also contributed to the discovery of two-dimensional transition metal carbides and nitrides (MXenes). He has co-authored over 600 scientific publications and received numerous awards, including

Rusnanoprize and the Clarivate Analytics Citation Laureate Award. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the World Academy of Ceramics, the European Academy of Sciences and many professional societies. He is an Associate Editor of the American Chemical Society journal “ACS Nano”.



Mikhail Lukin graduated from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and received his PhD from the Texas A&M University. He is George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Physics at Harvard University, co-director of the joint Center for Ultra-Cold Atoms at Harvard and MIT, as well as the Harvard Quantum Center. His research studies include quantum optics, quantum manipulation of atoms and solid-state nano-systems, quantum metrology, nanophononics and quantum informatics. He has co-authored over 400 scientific publications and received numerous awards. He is an honorary member of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences.

The prize has been awarded since 2015 in memory of Georgy Antonovich Gamow - an outstanding Soviet and American theoretical physicist, astrophysicist and popularizer of science. Last year, mathematician Vera Serganova and chemist Valery Fokin became laureates. Previous laureates include evolutionary geneticist Yevgeny Kunin, physicists Andrei Linde and Roald Sagdeev, and neuroanesthesiologist Vladimir Zelman.