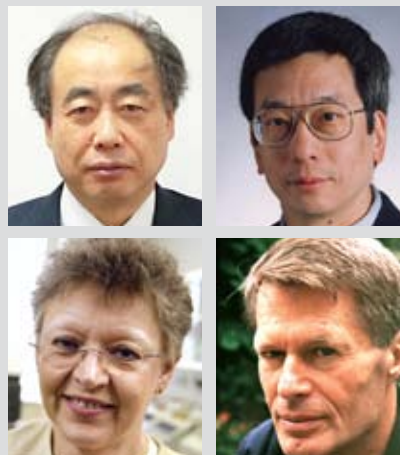


Welcome to this short *Guide to the 2008 Nobel Laureates* from Nobelprize.org, the official web site of the Nobel Foundation. *The Guide* aims to provide a handy digest of the 2008 Nobel Prizes and to offer a little insight into the work and people who have been the subject of this year's awards. For each Nobel Prize category, you will find a 'Speed read' summary of the Prize-awarded work, together with a timeline noting some of the important milestones that led to each Prize. We also include a succinct profile of each Laureate, entitled 'In his/her own words' and based on our telephone interviews conducted immediately following the announcements, which reveal some of the motivations and remarkable stories behind their individual achievements.



The Nobel Prize, which was first awarded in 1901, rewards achievements in the five fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace, as stipulated by Alfred Nobel in his will. In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank established The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, and this is awarded on the same day as the Nobel Prizes. This year's announcements have seen another twelve new Laureates added to the illustrious list, taking the grand total to 809 since the Nobel Prize's inception. The addition of one new female Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, now elevates the total number of women awarded a Nobel Prize to just 35.

Once again the scope of awarded discoveries takes us on a journey of extremes, from international trade and the source of global epidemics, to the miniature world of glowing jellyfish proteins and particle physics. Consistent with the global theme, a cross-cultural author and an international peacemaker have been awarded Nobel Prizes for their life-long achievements.

We hope that *The Guide* provides a taste of this year's Nobel Prizes. To explore these and other Nobel Prizes and Laureates in greater detail, please visit Nobelprize.org to access our full range of freely available content, including audio and video interviews, official documentation from the Prize-awarding committees, articles, educational games and much, much more.

