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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Nominations for Third Call of the Poland–U.S. Science (PLUS) Award Now Open**

**The Foundation for Polish Science, the largest private institution supporting science in Poland, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world’s largest multidisciplinary scientific society, have launched the third edition of the Poland–U.S. Science (PLUS) Award. The deadline to submit nominations is December 31, 2017.**

The aim of the PLUS Award is to underscore and strengthen scientific cooperation between scientists working in both Poland and the United States. The Award was established in 2013 and is presented to a pair of scientists – one working in Poland and the other in the U.S. – for their outstanding scientific achievements which result from their Transatlantic cooperation.

Applicants for the Award must be nominated, and any active member of the Polish or American scientific communities may nominate a pair of candidates. Self-nominations are also accepted. The scope of the PLUS Award covers all areas of science, excluding the arts. Winners are selected by a jury composed of prominent members of the Polish and American scientific communities. Awardees each receive \$5,000 as recognition for their achievements. The results of the third Award cycle will be announced in early 2018. The Award will be presented in Fall 2018 in Washington, D.C.

“This award highlights the role of Polish American scientific cooperation. It shows that the outcomes of this cooperation are great scientific achievements, which result from complementary work on the part of both scientists. Their shared achievements would have been impossible had they worked separately. We hope that the successes of our laureates become an inspiration for conducting joint scientific investigations for other researchers,” said Prof. Maciej Żylicz, President of the Foundation for Polish Science.

The winners of the 2015 PLUS Award cycle were Professor Mariusz Jaskólski from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan and Dr. Alexander Wlodawer from the National Cancer Institute in the U.S. The two world-renowned scientists worked together for nearly to 30 years on structural studies on proteins of medical relevance, which have contributed to the development of new therapies to cure human diseases, such as AIDS or leukemia in children.

“Each time we have launched the call for nominations we are impressed both by the quality of the scientific collaborations and the number of Polish and American scientists working together to solve joint problems,” said Tom Wang, AAAS Chief International Officer. “We hope that this iteration of the Poland – U.S. Award will continue to highlight this longstanding international science cooperation, which has for decades provided benefits on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Prof. Ryszard Kierzek from the Institute of Bio-organic Chemistry Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan and Prof. Douglas H. Turner from the University of Rochester – were the winners of the 2016 edition of the Award. Professors Kierzek and Turner were being recognized for the research on

thermodynamics, biology, and structure of ribonucleic acid (RNA) and RNA chemical synthesis. The researchers started their cooperation more than 30 years ago.

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**The American Association for the Advancement of Science** is an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science for the benefit of all people. The formation of AAAS in 1848 marked the emergence of a national scientific community in the United States. While science was part of the American scene from the nation's early days, its practitioners remained few in number and scattered geographically and among disciplines. AAAS was the first permanent organization formed to promote the development of science and engineering at the national level and to represent the interests of all its disciplines. [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)

**The Foundation for Polish Science** was established in 1991. It is a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit institution based in Warsaw, Poland, with the mission of supporting science. It is the largest source of science funding in Poland outside of the state budget. The Foundation pays special attention to the transparency of its operations, regarding this as the foundation for building the society's trust in the Foundation and in the entire NGO sector. Financial reporting of the Foundation is examined each year by renowned auditing firms. It publishes an extensive report on its operations every year in its Annual Report, available at FNP's offices and on its website. The motto of FNP is: "Supporting the best, so that they can become even better." [www.fnp.org.pl](http://www.fnp.org.pl)