The Nagoya Medal Award was initially proposed by Professor Hisashi Yamamoto and Professor Ryoji Noyori, and founded in 1995 with Professor Noyori as the president through the financial support of the MSD Life Science Foundation (Banyu). The Nagoya Gold Medal has been awarded every year to an organic chemist who has made significant original contributions to the field in its broadest sense. The first medal was presented to Professor Yoshito Kishi, and many eminent scientists have come to give lectures, including recipients of the Goto Memorial Lectureship started earlier. The Silver Medal, established in 1999, has been awarded every year to a front-runner based in Japan, whose research has a major impact on the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The medals are designed in the shape of a sword guard, an idea proposed by Professors Yamamoto and Noyori. The flowers on the surface are lilies, which are the city flower of Nagoya City, and have the meaning of “a kind heart and competitiveness”. At the award lectures, the recipients are asked to talk not only about the profundity of their unique chemistry, but also the in-depth philosophy behind it, encouraging young chemists and students. This year, the Gold Medal will be presented to Professor E. W. “Bert” Meijer (Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands), and the Silver Medal will be presented to Professor Hiroaki Suga (The University of Tokyo, Japan).

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Chairman: Kenichiro Itami, Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules (ITbM), Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601, Japan. Tel/Fax: +81-(0)52-788-6098 E-mail: nagoya-medal@itbm.nagoya-u.ac.jp