

Obama bestows national medals for science, tech

February 1 2013

President Barack Obama is honoring 12 researchers and 11 inventors with the nation's top award for invention and discovery.

Obama bestowed the national medals of science and the national medals of technology and innovation in a ceremony Friday in the East Room of the White House.

One of the recipients, Gholam Peyman, is credited with inventing [Lasik eye surgery](#). Obama noted that another recipient, Robert Langer, developed a groundbreaking product to tame frizzy hair.

Obama says that throughout history, geniuses like [Albert Einstein](#) and Galileo have been treated skeptically at first. He says the nation's future depends on keeping the curiosity and innovation alive.

Obama says what makes the U.S. unique is that success depends not on pedigree but on hard work and the ability to dream up new ideas.

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Citation: Obama bestows national medals for science, tech (2013, February 1) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-02-obama-bestows-national-medals-science.html>

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