

What's It Like to Be an Award-Winning Scientist?

An Interview with Canada Gairdner Award Winners:

Rodolphe Barrangou 2016 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate Antoine M. Hakim 2017 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award Laureate Rino Rappuoli 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate David Julius 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate

Rodolphe Barrangou

Being a Gairdner laureate, getting the call from the Gairdner Foundation, that you've been selected to receive this prestigious honour, is life altering.

Antoine M. Hakim

I must say, I am incredibly honoured to have been selected for the Gairdner Wightman Award for 2017.

Rino Rappuoli

When you get an award, that's something you're very surprised about. You say, why me? There are so many good people around. Then you say, well, if I've won I'm not going to say no.

David Julius

For me, winning the Gairdner Award, it's a great personal honour. But I think more than that, it represents all the hard work of people who've worked with me and it puts a spotlight on all of us, on whatever field we've contributed to.

Antoine M. Hakim

What it does is it gives you some credibility when you stand in front of the microphone to talk to students, or to talk to other scientists, or to talk to clinicians. Gairdner puts you to work. And I'm honoured and delighted to do it.



Rodolphe Barrangou

They have a fantastic program, fantastic series, outreach to the students, outreach to universities, outreach to the public.

David Julius

The outreach program is a great thing. There's an auditorium full of 200 or 300 kids, and they come in and they want to know about what you do, how you came into science. I usually tell them, scientists can come from anywhere. You don't have to come from an academic family. You don't have to be rich. The only thing that's required to do science is your desire to do science.

Rodolphe Barrangou

It's very rewarding and very enjoyable to engage the various constituents of the nation of Canada, and of the world in general. To share the work, to share the tech, to share the success, and to share the stories. And I'm certainly enjoying Gairdner Week, like I have very few in my life.

Antoine M. Hakim

The Gairdner is the crown achievement, the crown recognition, and I'm incredibly honoured to have been selected.

Rino Rappuoli

I was surprised when learned about it, but I'm very happy that I got it.