



SVERIGES UNGA AKADEMI

The Young Academy of Sweden
celebrates an extraordinary career of scientific
discovery and leadership:

THE TORSTEN WIESEL MIDNIGHT SUN AWARD – FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN PROMOTING SCIENCE

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To mark his 90th birthday, the Young Academy of Sweden together with Torsten Wiesel are pleased to announce: *The Torsten Wiesel Midnight Sun Award – For Distinguished Achievement in Promoting Science*. This award will be recurrent and presented to a person(s) or an organization who has done extraordinary work to explain or promote science to the public and/or decision makers. The awardee(s), who can be of any nationality, will be selected by a committee formed by the Young Academy of Sweden following nominations. The award will be presented at a ceremony in Stockholm, which will also include a public lecture.

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Taking inspiration from Japan's "Order of the Rising Sun Award" which Wiesel was awarded in 2009, the concept of the "Midnight Sun Award" relates to the Scandinavian natural phenomenon of the never-setting sun. Born in Sweden in 1924, Torsten received his M.D. at the

Karolinska Institutet in 1954 and spent over 50 years of his scientific career in the United States.

Torsten Wiesel is a monumental figure in science. Half

a century ago, his pioneering research together with David Hubel at Harvard University forever changed our understanding of how the brain perceives the visual world around us, and the capacity of neural circuits to adapt during development. This work was awarded with the 1981 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In parallel with these and other extraordinary research achievements, Torsten has dedicated his life to scientific leadership at the highest level. Examples include his presidency of the Rockefeller University (1991–1998), leading the Human Frontier Science Program (2000–2009) and chairing the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences (1994–2004).

Torsten Wiesel is the Scientific Patron of the Young Academy of Sweden, an independent forum for some of the most talented young researchers in Sweden, representing all disciplines. The Academy was founded in 2011 at the initiative of the Nobel Prize awarding institution the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.



1981: David Hubel and Torsten Wiesel were awarded the Nobel Prize.