



RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



Fellows Program

Established in 2012, the NAI Fellows Program recognizes individuals whose patented innovations have made an enduring and profound economic and societal impact. Becoming an NAI Fellow is the highest professional distinction awarded to inventors. So, it is no surprise that these individuals are often celebrated as pioneers in their field.

Fellows are experienced innovators, typically holding a median of 20 patents, and have often been honored by some of the most prestigious organizations and accolades within the innovation ecosystem, including but not limited to, the Nobel Prize, the US National Medal of Technology and Innovation and US National Medal of Science, and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

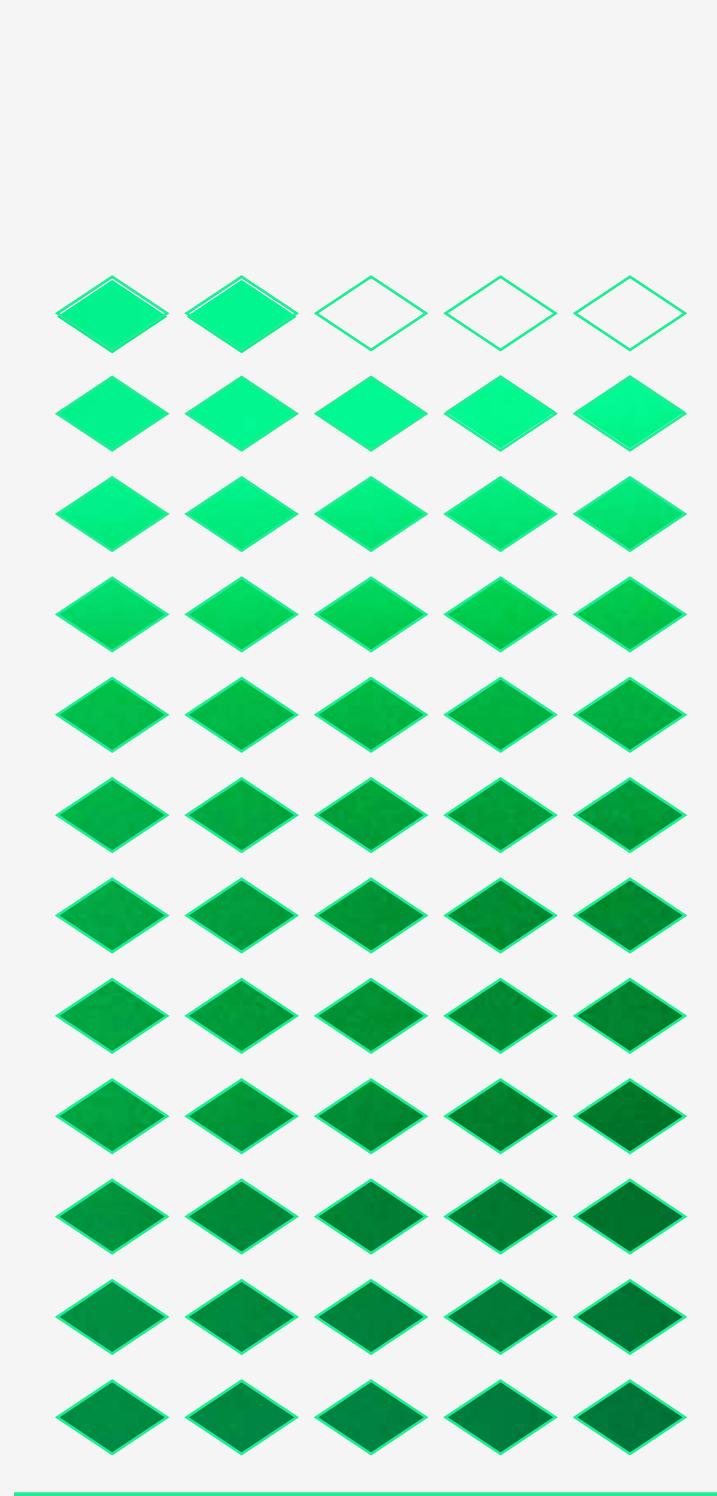
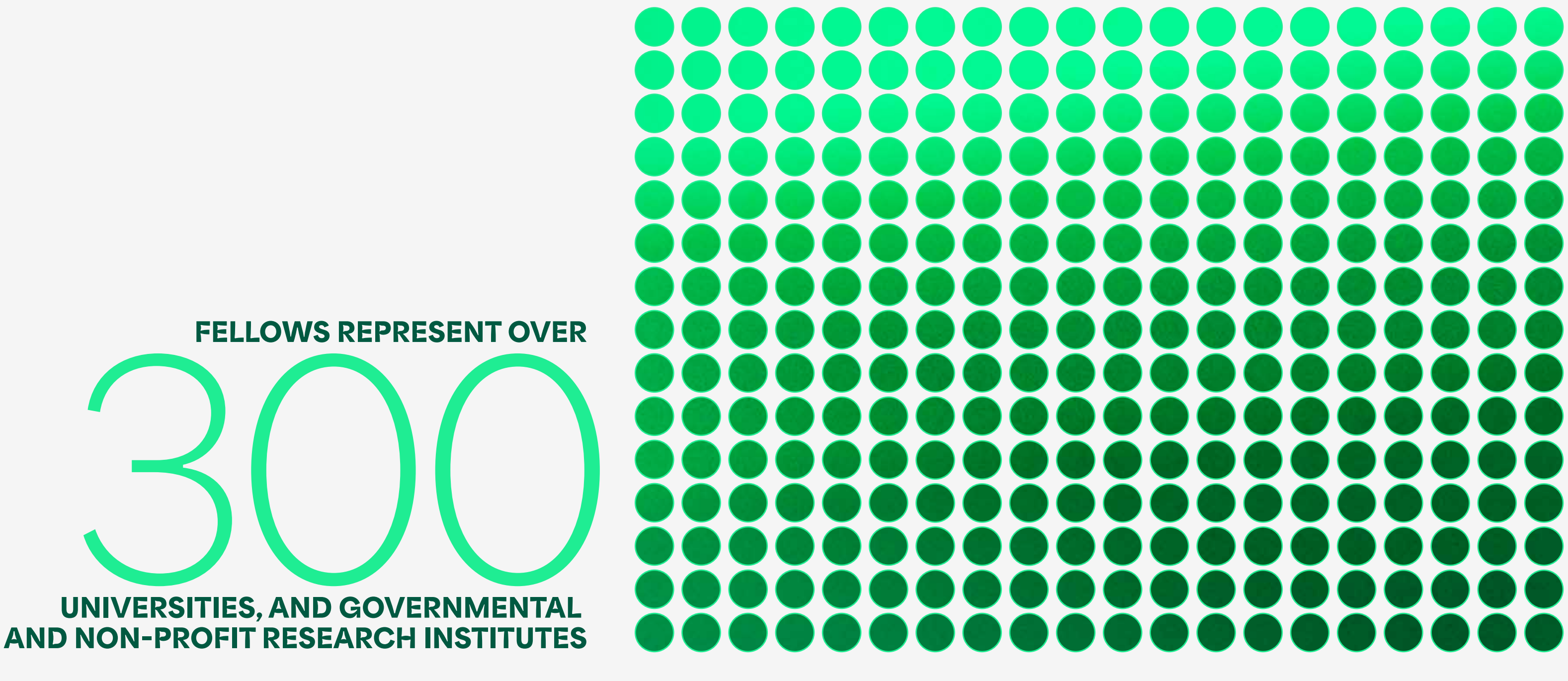
“NAI Fellows as a whole are a driving force of innovation, generating crucial advancements across scientific disciplines and creating tangible impacts as they move their technologies from lab to marketplace.”

- Dr. Paul R. Sanberg, President of the National Academy of Inventors

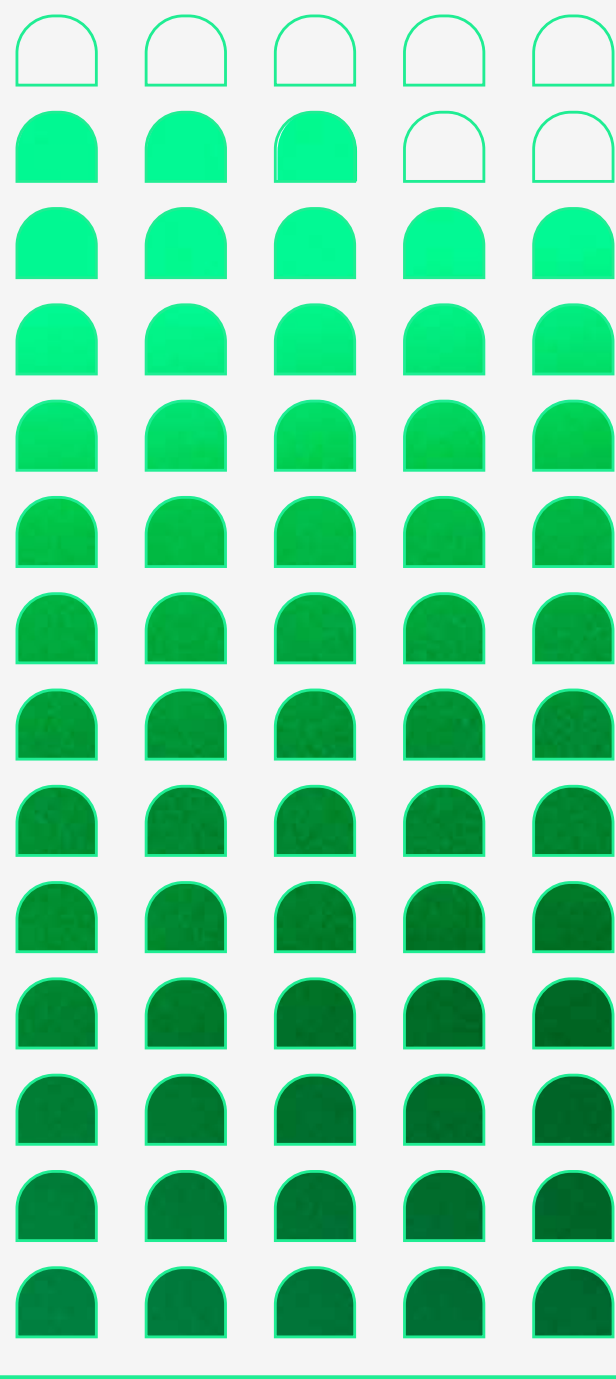
The Fellows Program currently comprises 2,068 Fellows, representing over 300 universities and non-profit and governmental research institutes worldwide.

The 2023 Class of Fellows consists of 162 individuals, hailing from 118 research universities, governmental and non-profit research institutions worldwide. It includes 89 individuals from the Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions and 128 individuals from R1 universities. Collectively, the 2023 Fellows hold over 4,600 issued U.S. patents. They were honored in the Fellows Induction Ceremony held during the Academy’s 13th Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina in June of 2024. View pictures from the Fellows Induction Ceremony.

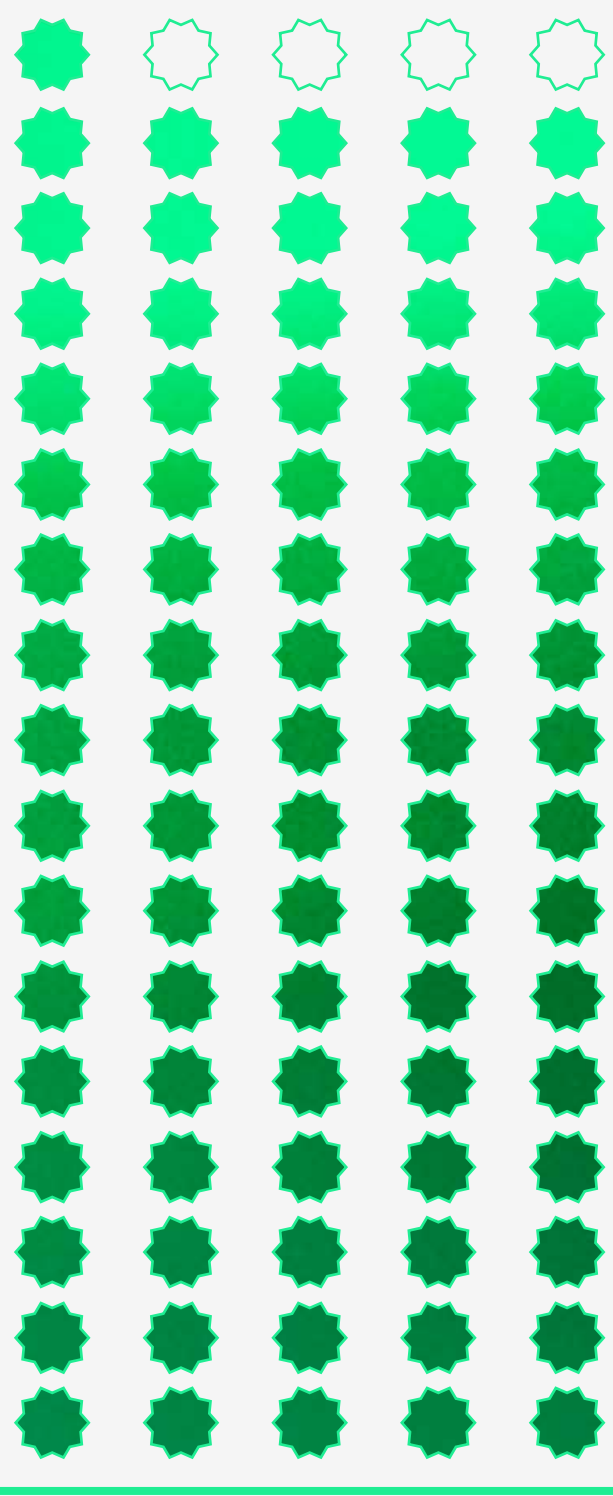
The 2024 Class of Fellows is the largest to date, with 170 individuals representing 135 research universities, governmental and non-profit research institutions across the globe. Collectively, they hold over 5,600 U.S. patents. This class includes researchers holding prestigious honors and distinctions such as the Nobel Prize, U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and National Medal of Science, and membership to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The 2024 Class will be honored during the 14th Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on June 26th, 2025.



NOBEL LAUREATES

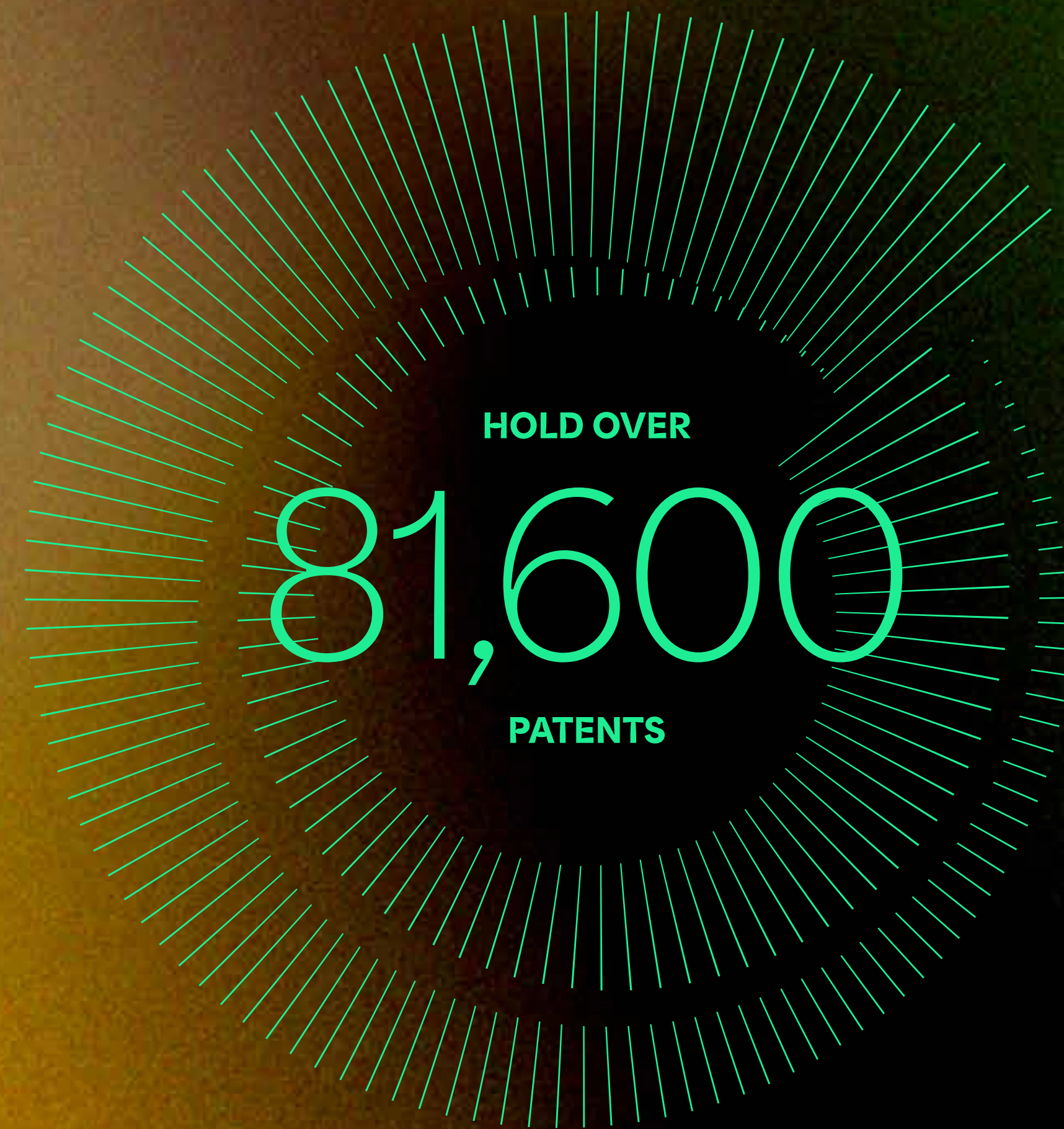


INDUCTEES OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME



U.S. NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AND U.S. NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE RECIPIENTS





HOLD OVER

81,600

PATENTS

HAVE INVOLVED OVER

500,000

STUDENTS IN RESEARCH

HAVE CREATED OVER

1.2 million

JOBS

HAVE GENERATED OVER

\$3.2 trillion

IN REVENUE

See the full 2023 class list of Fellows

Fellows List

Learn more about the Fellows Program

Learn More

Search our Fellows Directory

Search Directory



Senior Member Program

Introduced in 2018, the Senior Members program recognizes individuals affiliated with NAI Member Institutions whose success in patented innovations have created or have the potential to create tangible societal impact. Senior Members are typically active scientists, faculty, or administrators who are considered early-stage innovators and are recognized as rising leaders in their field. Today, NAI Senior Members include 715 emerging innovators holding almost 7,000 patents.

Learn more about the Senior Member Program

Learn More

Search the Senior Member Directory

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The 2024 class of Senior Members, composed of 124 individuals, was elected in February 2024 and honored during the Senior Member Induction Ceremony at the Academy's 13th Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina in June.

Hailing from 60 NAI Member institutions across the nation, the 2024 class are, collectively, named inventors on over 1,000 U.S. patents – with 344 of those being licensed technologies and commercialized products.

View pictures from the Senior Member Induction Ceremony

View Photos

See the 2024 class of Senior Members

2024 Senior Members List

1,000+
NAMED INVENTORS ON U.S. PATENTS

LARGEST CLASS
162
ELECTED MEMBERS

The 2025 class of Senior Members, elected in February 2025, is the largest class to date with 162 individuals hailing from 64 NAI Member Institutions. Collectively, they are named inventors on over 1,200 U.S. patents. The 2025 class will be honored during the 14th Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on June 25th, 2025.

See the 2025 class of Senior Members

2025 Senior Members List

Honorary Members

The Honorary Member program recognizes and celebrates the dedication and service of individuals who are making significant contributions to the innovation ecosystem. Their work helps facilitate, nurture, or promote economic development through research and innovation at their institutions, in their local communities, and beyond. These individuals include technology transfer officers, institutional administration, industry leaders, and government officials who are championing innovation at their respective institutions and beyond.

The 2024 class was recognized at the 13th Annual Conference and included 28 individuals from across sectors of industry, government, and academia.

Learn more about Honorary Members

Learn More

View the Honorary Member Directory

View Directory



At the Academy, we celebrate all of our Members as they continue on their inventive journey. If you are a Fellow, Senior Member, or Honorary Member, we encourage you to share your news with us so that we can recognize you and share your work through our media channels.

Have news you'd like to share? Send it to info@academyofinventors.org.

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