



For immediate release
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Dr. Kenta Ozeki awarded the 2023 Hall Medal of the ICA

Hall Medals recognize **extensive quality research with substantial international impact** by Fellows of the ICA in mid-career.

Kenta Ozeki has made deep contributions in the field of structural and topological graph theory. He has obtained a number of important results and solved several long-standing conjectures and problems. His penetrating insight has enabled him to make new discoveries in subjects which have already been thoroughly studied. For example, inspired by Fisk's seminal result that all the 3-edge-colorings of a cubic bipartite planar graph are Kempe equivalent, Mohar raised the problem of characterizing the cubic bipartite graphs that have exactly one Kempe equivalence class. Though many people thought it was an extremely difficult task, Kenta made a breakthrough and solved the problem for projective planar graphs. He also proved Dean's conjecture that every 4-connected projective planar graph is Hamiltonian-connected, combining Thomassen's result that every 4-connected planar graph is Hamiltonian-connected and the result by Thomas and Yu that every 4-connected projective planar graph is Hamiltonian.

Kenta Ozeki is a graduate of Keio University, earning his Doctoral degree in 2009, and after working as a Research Fellow at National Institute of Informatics in Japan, he joined the faculty of Yokohama National University in 2017. Since 2006, he has published 105 papers. At the age of 40, he is Associate Editor-in-Chief of Graphs and Combinatorics, which strongly indicates his deep and broad knowledge of graph theory.

The Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications is an international scholarly society that was founded in 1990 by Ralph Stanton; the ICA was established for the purpose of promoting the development of combinatorics and of encouraging publications and conferences in combinatorics and its applications.