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| Contributed by: Ann Reisenauer, San Jose State University |

Scientist Spotlight:

Shinya Yamanaka

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| Screen%20Shot%202016-08-11%20at%209.45.08%20PM.png Dr. Shinya Yamanaka is a Japanese physician and researcher who studies stem cells at Kyoto University and the Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco. His discovery of iPS cells brought medical science a step closer to using stem cells to treat a wide range of diseases. He won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2012 for this work. Major hurdles remain, but the discovery of iPS cells is a key breakthrough in stem cell research.  Please view the NOVA special called Stem Cells Breakthrough at  <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/stem-cells-breakthrough.html> |

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| After viewing the video, write a 250 word or more reflection with your responses to what you heard. You might wish to discuss:   1. What are the characteristics of stem cells? Why are iPS cells also called reprogrammed cells? 2. What are some advantages of iPS cells as compared to embryonic stem cells? 3. Explain how stem cells can be used in medicine. 4. What was most interesting or most confusing about the video? 5. What did you learn about the types of people who do science? |