



MRS stands with materials researchers worldwide opposing the invasion of Ukraine

We stand with our colleagues in Ukraine facing danger, scientists in Russia opposing the invasion, and our members worldwide speaking out against the war in Ukraine – Carolyn R. Duran, 2022 MRS President

Since the invasion of Ukraine, materials scientists across the globe have been monitoring the events closely, supporting and assisting Ukrainian colleagues in any way they can, believing that it is important to protect researchers and their families.

Yury Gogotsi, MRS Fellow and Distinguished University and Charles T. and Ruth M. Bach Professor at Drexel University, notes that “many colleagues and classmates of mine spend nights in cold basements or bomb shelters and I get information about events there not from the television, but from dozens of messages and phone calls I get every day.”

Inside the country, the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, which was founded in 2018 and only recently became fully operational, has seen many of its scientists leave to join the army,

hide in shelters or leave the country. Over 250 projects meant to start at the beginning of March are now on indefinite hold, bringing unrecoverable harm to the Ukrainian science community.

According to reports, Dr. Olga Polotska, the head of the Foundation, spends her time during the day delivering food and supplies and her evenings in an underground bomb shelter, just like millions of other Ukrainians. Many research buildings across the nation have been damaged or fully destroyed, leaving the future of the scientific enterprise in the country in doubt.

Worldwide, there have been actions from professional technical organizations and scientific groups against the Russian government and associate organizations. As examples, several of Germany’s largest research funding

organizations, including the German Research Foundation, announced its intent to halt all scientific cooperation with Russia. The group declared that research funds will no longer benefit Russia, joint scientific events will not take place, and that no new collaborations will begin. In the United Kingdom, Science Minister George Freeman tweeted that he had launched a rapid review of research-innovation funding from the United Kingdom government to Russian beneficiaries. And in the United States, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has ended its relationship with the Skolkovo Foundation, a Moscow-based nonprofit organization focusing on innovation.

“It is a human right for all people to be able to live their lives and pursue their livelihood inside safe environments,” says Sabrina Sartori, 2022 MRS Vice President. Amplifying the message, Carolyn R. Duran, 2022 MRS President states, “We stand with our colleagues in Ukraine facing danger, scientists in Russia opposing the invasion, and our members worldwide speaking out against the war in Ukraine.”

Outraged by the actions of their government, thousands of scientists in Russia have condemned the war, and a letter organized by researchers and journalists in Russia has been signed by more than 5,000 people. The letter strongly condemns the hostilities in Ukraine and states that the Russian leadership has launched an unjustifiable war. Around 85 members of the Russian Academy of Sciences have endorsed this letter.

The Council of Young Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences



An explosion from an air bomb in the center of the city of Kharkov, the metro station Constitution Square. Photo taken March 2, 2022 (by KMimages).

of Ukraine is trying to convince international organizations to take even stronger action against Russia. More than 130 people have signed an open letter to the European Commission and member states of the European Union

calling for an urgent suspension of all funding to, and international collaboration with, Russian institutions supporting the government.

Some ways that MRS members and the community at large can support

colleagues and their families in Ukraine include:

UNICEF

Doctors without Borders

Red Cross – Red Crescent Ukraine

MRS AWARDS

August 2, 2022
Nomination Deadline

Nominate a Colleague Today!

The MRS Awards Program strives to acknowledge outstanding contributors to the progress of materials research and to recognize their exciting and profound accomplishments.

We seek to honor those whose work has already had a major impact in the field, those who have defined the frontiers of the field, those who are outstanding exponents of their science and those young researchers whose work already leads to great expectations for future leadership.

Not only do we honor the award recipients, we also believe that by highlighting these diverse leaders in our field and their creative work, we will enrich the awareness of the progress and diversity of materials research, both within the materials community and in the wider community at large.

The Materials Research Society strives to uphold and embody equality in all areas including gender, institutional, educational, racial, ethnic and geographic diversity of its members. MRS is committed to being inclusive and believes that MRS Award nominees and recipients should be broadly reflective of our overall membership. Therefore, when making nominations for MRS Awards, we encourage you to consider scientists from ALL demographic backgrounds and geographic regions.

Nominations Due for Spring Awards:

- ◆ Innovation in Materials Characterization Award
- ◆ Mid-Career Researcher Award
- ◆ MRS Impact Award
- ◆ Outstanding Early-Career Investigator Award
- ◆ MRS Postdoctoral Awards
- ◆ MRS Fellows

Nominations Due for Fall Awards:

- ◆ Graduate Student Awards

For more information, visit mrs.org/awards