

# Jean Clark Dan

Jean Clark Dan came to MBL in 1931 as an undergraduate in the Invertebrate Zoology Course. She spent summers here until 1936, when she completed her PhD with Victor Heilbrunn at the University of Pennsylvania. After marrying in 1937, Jean and Katsuma Dan moved to Japan and continued research at the Misaki Marine Station.

1932



Jean Clark Dan and Katsuma Dan, Woods Hole Historical Museum



Jean Clark Dan returned to MBL in 1947 and met Ken Cooper, who persuaded Edwin Grant Conklin to arrange a grant from the American Philosophical Society for a phase contrast microscope for the Misaki Marine Station. Phase contrast microscopes can reveal cellular structures not seen with bright field microscopy and allows experimentation with living cells.

Jean Clark Dan characterized the acrosomal reaction in sea urchins, a crucial step in penetration of the egg by sperm during fertilization.