

# HFSP AWARDS 2026

## ACCELERATOR GRANTS

as approved by the Board of Trustees (March 2026)

**Accelerator Grants, Grants – a new scheme** started as a three-year pilot, allow teams who have been awarded a research grant the year before (at this point, 2025) to add an additional team member, from one of seven countries (India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa).

Accelerator Grants awarded 2026 are listed alphabetically, with respect to the Principal Investigator (PI) of the team. The first named for each awarded team is the PI, followed by all the other members of the Research Grant team awarded 2025, and last (but not least), and in **bold** letters, the Accelerator member. Nationality is in parentheses when different from country in which the laboratory is located.

**Eyes inside out: Convergent processing of complex visual information in marine invertebrates**

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| <b>BADEN</b><br>Tom     | School of Life Sciences<br>The University of Sussex<br>Brighton           | United Kingdom<br>(Germany)            |
| <b>BOK</b><br>Michael   | Dept. of Biology<br>Lund University                                       | Sweden<br>(USA)                        |
| <b>REITER</b><br>Samuel | <b>Computational Neuroethology Unit</b><br><b>OIST</b><br><b>Onna Son</b> | <b>Japan</b><br><b>(United States)</b> |

**Genomic signatures of adaptation to extreme environments and viviparity**

|                              |  |                         |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>BARGMANN</b><br>Cornelia  | Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior<br>The Rockefeller University<br>New York   | United States           |
| <b>BRAENDLE</b><br>Christian | Institute of Biology Valrose (IBV)<br>University of Côte d'Azur<br>Nice                | France<br>(Switzerland) |
| <b>NEW</b><br>Elizabeth      | School of Chemistry<br>The University of Sydney  | Australia               |
| <b>SHINYA</b><br>Ryoji       | School of Agriculture<br>Meiji University<br>Kawasaki                                  | Japan                   |
| <b>KIKUCHI</b><br>Taisei     | <b>Dept. of Integrated Biosciences</b><br><b>University of Tokyo</b><br><b>Kashiwa</b> | <b>Japan</b>            |

**Molecular memories in single cells: An integrated approach to how cells learn - accelerator**

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|----------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>BHAMLA</b><br>Saad      | Biofrontiers Institute<br>University of Colorado Boulder   | United States |
| <b>CHEN</b><br>Wanze       | Institute of Synthetic Biology<br>Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology,                                     | China         |
| <b>DUSSUTOUR</b><br>Audrey | Research Center on Animal Cognition<br>University Paul Sabatier<br>Toulouse                                      | France        |
| <b>BANERJEE</b><br>Sourav  | <b>Dept. of Molecular &amp; Cellular Neuroscience</b><br><b>National Brain Research Centre</b><br><b>Manesar</b> | <b>India</b>  |

**Methanotrophs at the nanoscale: exploring atmospheric methane oxidizing bacteria  
using cryoelectron tomography**

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|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>HAURYLIUK</b><br>Vasili       | Dept. of Experimental Medical Science<br>Lund University                              | Sweden                           |
| <b>BASAN</b><br>Markus           | Dept. of Systems Biology<br>Harvard Medical School<br>Boston                          | USA                              |
| <b>TVEIT</b><br>Alexander Tøsdal | Dept. of Arctic and Marine Biology<br>UiT - The Arctic University of Norway<br>Tromsø | Norway                           |
| <b>SITSEL</b><br>Oleg            | <b>Marine Structural Biology Unit</b><br><b>OIST</b><br><b>Onna</b>                   | <b>Japan</b><br><b>(Estonia)</b> |

**Integrating Causal Inference, AI, and Mechanistic Modeling to Predict Climate-Sensitive  
Tick–Virus Dynamics**

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|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>KOTSYFAKIS</b><br>Michail | Laboratory of Arthropod Disease Vector Biology<br>FORTH Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology<br>- IMBB<br>Heraklion        | Greece             |
| <b>DIABATE</b><br>Abdoulaye  | Dept. of Biomedical Sciences<br>Centre MURAZ-BURKINA FASO<br>Bobo-Dioulasso  | Burkina Faso       |
| <b>KAR</b><br>Sirri          | Dept. of Biology<br>Tekirdag Namik Kemal University  | Turkey             |
| <b>MANS</b><br>Ben           | Onderstepoort Veterinary Research<br>Agricultural Research Council<br>Pretoria   | South Africa       |
| <b>KIM</b><br>Jae Kyoung     | <b>Dept. of Mathematical Sciences</b><br><b>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology -</b><br><b>KAIST</b><br><b>Daejeon</b> | <b>R. of Korea</b> |

**Individuality of abundance-activity-toxicity isoclines of fitness**

|                             |  |              |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>LANDRY</b><br>Christian  | Dept. of biology<br>Laval University<br>Québec                                       | Canada       |
| <b>MORIYA</b><br>Hisao      | Dept. of Agriculture<br>Okayama University   | Japan        |
| <b>REYNOLDS</b><br>Kimberly | Dept. of Bioinformatics<br>University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center<br>Dallas | USA          |
| <b>WAKAMOTO</b><br>Yuichi   | <b>Dept. of Basic Science</b><br><b>University of Tokyo</b>                          | <b>Japan</b> |

**Universal Biochemistry of RNA in the Cold**

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|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>RITORT</b><br>Felix     | Dept. of Condensed Matter Physics<br>University of Barcelona<br>Barcelona               | Spain               |
| <b>HOLLIGER</b><br>Philipp | Dept. of Protein & Nucleic Acid Chemistry<br>MRC Lab. of Molecular Biology<br>Cambridge | UK<br>(Switzerland) |
| <b>WOODSON</b><br>Sarah A. | Dept. of Biophysics<br>Johns Hopkins University<br>Baltimore                            | USA                 |
| <b>WILLIAMSON</b><br>Adele | <b>School of Science</b><br><b>The University of Waikato</b><br><b>Hamilton</b>         | <b>New Zealand</b>  |

**A metabolomic approach to examine endogenous precursors of volatile organic compounds in fear odours**

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|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>ROBERTS</b><br>S. Craig  | Faculty of Natural Sciences<br>University of Stirling   | United Kingdom     |
| <b>KALAN</b><br>Lindsay     | Dept. of Biochemistry & Biomedical Sciences<br>McMaster University<br>Hamilton  | Canada             |
| <b>WILLIAMS</b><br>Jonathan | Dept. of Atmospheric Chemistry<br>MPI for Chemistry<br>Mainz  | Germany            |
| <b>YOON</b><br>Haejin       | <b>Dept. of Biological Science</b><br><b>Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology -</b><br><b>UNIST</b><br><b>Ulsan</b> | <b>R. of Korea</b> |

**Comparative biophysics of spindle asymmetry and polar lobes in spiralian embryos**

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|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>TURLIER</b><br>Hervé     | Molecular, Cellular and Developmental biology Unit<br>CNRS Occitanie Ouest<br>Toulouse               | France         |
| <b>BARONE</b><br>Vanessa    | Dept. of Biology<br>Stanford University<br>Pacific Grove   | USA<br>(Italy) |
| <b>MARTÍN-DURÁN</b><br>Jose | Dept. of Biology<br>Queen Mary University of London  | UK<br>(Spain)  |
| <b>SHIMAMOTO</b><br>Yuta    | <b>Dept. of Chromosome Science</b><br><b>National Institute of Genetics - NIG</b><br><b>Shizuoka</b> | <b>Japan</b>   |

**Uncovering the metabolic and physiological shifts that drive air-breathing emergence**

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>VARGA</b><br>Máté     | Dept. of Genetics<br>Eotvos Lorand University<br>Budapest          | Hungary                                  |
| <b>FABIAN</b><br>Peter   | Dept. of Experimental Biology<br>Masaryk University<br>Brno        | Czech Republic<br>(Slovak Republic)      |
| <b>ONAI</b><br>Takayuki  | Dept. of Anatomy<br>University of Fukui                            | Japan                                    |
| <b>MORGAN</b><br>Rachael | <b>Dept. of Biological Sciences</b><br><b>University of Bergen</b> | <b>Norway</b><br><b>(United Kingdom)</b> |