International Human Frontier Science Program Organization

HFSP AWARDS 2026

RESEARCH GRANTS

as approved by the Board of Trustees (March 2026)

Research Grants-Program and Research Grants-Early Career provide 3 years of support for international teams involving at least two countries. Preference is given to intercontinental collaborations (rather than all N. American or all European teams). All team members are expected to broaden the character of their research compared to their ongoing research programs and interact with teams bringing expertise that is very different from their own so as to create novel approaches to problems in fundamental biology. All members of an Early Career team must be within 5 years of establishing their independent research group and no more than 10 years from their doctoral degree. Program Grant teams may consist of team members at any stage of their career as independent investigators.

Program and Early Career Grants are listed separately, alphabetically. The first named for each award is the Principal Investigator. Nationality is in parentheses when different from country in which the laboratory is located.

Genetic conflict over sex ratio in vertebrates

AKERA Takashi	Cell and Developmental Biology Center NIH NHLBI Bethesda	United States (Japan)
HEJNAR Jirí	Dept. of Viral and Cellular Genetics Institute of Molecular Genetics, Czech Academy of Sciences Prague	Czech Republic
MARQUES André	Dept. of Chromosome Biology MPI for Plant Breeding Research Cologne	Germany (Brazil)

Metabolic rearrangements: The bacterial frontline for coping with fluctuating conditions

AMSTER-CHODER Orna	Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Hebrew University Jerusalem	Israel
HUANG Kerwyn	Dept. of Bioengineering Stanford University	United States
WIGNESHWERARAJ Sivaramesh	Dept. of Infectious Disease Imperial College London	United Kingdom (Germany)

Electro-chemical Actuation of Tissue Morphogenesis

BARRIGA Elias	Cluster of Excellence Physics of Life (PoL) TU Dresden	Germany (Chile)
COHEN Daniel	Dept. of Bioengineering Princeton University	United States
DUCLUT Charlie	Dept. of Physics Institut Curie Paris	France
MARTINEZ-MORALES Juan	CABD. Gene Regulation and Morphogenesis CSIC Madrid	Spain

Noise or signal? Information fidelity at the edge of jamming

BETZ Timo	Third Institute of Physics - Biophysics University of Göttingen	Germany
HOLT Liam	Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology NYU New York	United States
IMAJO Masamichi	Inst. Chem. React. Design. Discover. (WPI-ICReDD) Hokkaido University Sapporo	Japan

Listening to the neighbors: How do plants use volatiles to communicate with each other?

BRANDIZZI Federica	MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory Michigan State University East Lansing	United States
GERSHENZON Jonathan	Dept. of Biochemistry MPI for Chemical Ecology Jena	Germany (United States)
MAOZ Ben	Biomedical Eng. and Sagol School of Neuroscience Tel Aviv University	Israel
WETTON Brian	Dept. of Mathematics University of British Columbia Vancouver	Canada

Decoding an ancient RNA social network

BUCK Amy	School of Biological Sciences University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
KAISER Stefanie	Dept. of Biochemistry, Chemistry and Pharmacy Goethe University Frankfurt	Germany
LEY Ruth	Dept. of Microbiome Science MPI for Biology Tübingen	Germany (United States)
TOSAR Juan	Functional Genomics Laboratory Institut Pasteur Montevideo	Uruguay

The evolution, function and ecological relevance of sleep in the oceans: an invertebrate perspective

CHATZIGEORGIOU Marios	Michael Sars Centre University of Bergen	Norway (Greece)
LESKU John	Dept. of Ecological, Plant and Animal Sciences La Trobe University Melbourne	Australia (Canada)
PARIS-LIMOUZY Claire	Ocean Sciences University of Miami Coral Gables	United States

Rhythms of the Tide: Unveiling the Three-Process Regulation of Sleep in Intertidal Crustaceans

DE LA IGLESIA Horacio	Dept. of Biology University of Washington Seattle	United States
EMERY Patrick	Dept. of Neurobiology University of Massachusetts Worcester	United States
HUT Roelof	Dept. of Neurobiology Rijks University Groningen	Netherlands
SZTARKER Julieta	Dept. of Physiology and Neuroscience University of Buenos Aires	Argentina

Understanding the role of biodiversity in shaping immunity and spillover risks

FORNACE Kimberly	Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health National University of Singapore	Singapore (United States)
KARLSSON Erik	Dept. of Virology Institut Pasteur Phnom Penh	Cambodia (United States)
LAING Eric	Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology Uniformed Services University Bethesda	United States
SETHI Sarab	Dept. of Life Sciences Imperial College London	United Kingdom

Evolution of extreme behavioral adaptations in the bat fly, a blood-feeding parasite of bats

GALLIO Marco	Dept. of Neurobiology Northwestern University Evanston	United States (Italy)
GREWE Felix	Grainger Bioinformatics Center Field Museum Chicago	United States (Germany)
SOARIMALALA Voahangy	Institut des Sciences et Techniques de l'Environnement University of Fianarantsoa	Madagascar

Breaking the Limits of Sugar Sensing in Plants Using Photon Avalanche FRET

HILDEBRANDT Niko	Dept. of Engineering Physics McMaster University Hamilton	Canada (France)
BEDNARKIEWICZ Artur	Dept. of Luminescent Nanoparticles Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research, Polish Academy of Sciences Wroclaw	Poland
FROMMER Wolf	Institute for Molecular Physiology Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf	Germany

Rictal bristles - a potential novel sensor for the perception of high-frequency sounds in birds

HOFFMANN Susanne	Neural Mechanisms of Natural Behavior Research Group MPI for Biological Intelligence Seewiesen	Germany
MALDONADO-CHAPARRO Adriana	Dept. of Biology Universidad del Rosario Bogotá	Colombia

Intracellular self-assembly of bird feather photonic nanostructures

KAWAGUCHI Kyogo	RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research Kobe	Japan
CHUONG Cheng-Ming	Dept. of Pathology University of Southern California (USC) Los Angeles	United States
SARANATHAN Vinod Kumar	Insect Biology Research Institute (IRBI, UMR 7261) CNRS Limousin Poitou Charente Tours	France (India)

Dissecting how petal microstructure shapes the thermal microenvironment of flowers

KOSKI Matthew	Dept. of Biological Sciences Clemson University	United States
ISHII Satoshi	Research Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) Tsukuba	Japan
MOYROUD Edwige	Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University of Cambridge	United Kingdom (France)

Checkpoint Cell Wall: Re-enacting the interplay between intrusive plant cells and host tissues

KRAUSE Kirsten	Dept. of Arctic and Marine Biology UiT The Arctic University of Norway Tromso	Norway (Germany)
BURCH-SMITH Tessa	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center St. Louis	United States
IMBERTY Anne	Dept. of Molecular and Structural Glycobiology CNRS Alpes Grenoble	France
JOHNSTON Iain	Dept. of Mathematics and Computational Biology Unit University of Bergen	Norway (United Kingdom)

Regulation of collective cell migration by electromechanical patterns in the gut

KRNDIJA Denis	Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Unit CNRS Occitanie Ouest Toulouse	France (Croatia)
JÜLICHER Frank	Dept. of Biological Physics MPI for the Physics of Complex Systems Dresden	Germany
SAW Thuan Beng	School of Life Sciences Westlake University Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province	China (Malaysia)

The evolution, functions, and receptors of socially transferred materials

LEBOEUF Adria	Dept. of Zoology University of Cambridge Cambridge	United Kingdom (United States)
KOENE Joris	Amsterdam Institute for Life and Environment VU University Amsterdam	Netherlands
STYNOSKI Jennifer	Instituto Clodomiro Picado University of Costa Rica San José	Costa Rica

How snakes lost their limbs

MALLO Moises	Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM) Lisbon	Portugal (Spain)
COHN Martin	Dept. of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology University of Florida Gainesville	United States
ELO Laura	Turku Bioscience Centre University of Turku	Finland

Silencing Active Synapses: STAmP for Selective Synaptic Inhibition in Neural Circuits

MCHUGH Thomas	Center for Brain Science RIKEN Center for Brain Science Wako	Japan (United States)
KIM Jinhyun	Brain Science Institute Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) Seoul	R. of Korea
LIN Michael	Dept. of Neurobiology and Bioengineering Stanford University	United States

Living Batteries: Reconfiguring cell-wall deficient bacteria as synthetic mitochondria

MOULE Madeleine	School of Biological Sciences University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom (United States)
EL KAROUI Meriem	LBPA - ENS Paris Saclay CNRS Délégation Ile-de-France Gif-sur-Yvette	France
MORTEN Karl	Nuffield Dept. of Women's and Reproductive Health University of Oxford	United Kingdom
SCOTT Matthew	Dept. of Applied Mathematics University of Waterloo	Canada

Revealing the Hidden World of Heme Proteins in True Colour

OGILVIE Jennifer	Dept. of Physics University of Ottawa	Canada
HAMZA Iqbal	Dept. of Pediatrics University of Maryland Baltimore	United States
KUKURA Philipp	Dept. of Chemistry University of Oxford	United Kingdom
SLIWA Michel	Laboratoire d'optique et biosciences CNRS Délégation Ile-de-France Gif-sur-Yvette Palaiseau	France

mech.nano.morph: Decoding mechanical principles of nanometric morphogenesis

RAIBLE Florian	Dept. of Neurosciences and Developmental Biology University of Vienna	Austria (Germany)
GORIELY Alain	Dept. of Mathematics University of Oxford	United Kingdom (Belgium)

Using Robotics to Unearth the Hidden Subterranean Ecology of Mole-Rats

ROTICS Shay	School of Zoology and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural history Tel Aviv University	Israel
SEO TaeWon	School of Mechanical Engineering Hanyang University IUC Seoul	R. of Korea

Sleep without the brain: Characterizing Signatures and Roles of Sleep in the Spinal Cord

TAKEOKA Aya	Center for Brain Science RIKEN Center for Brain Science Saitama	Japan
HENGEN Keith	Dept. of Biology Washington University St Louis	United States
LIU Sha	Center for Brain & Disease Research Flanders Institute for Biotechnology - VIB Gent	Belgium (China)

Cells, tissues, & thermodynamics: implications for a changing world

TRIVEDI Vikas	Dept. of Tissue Biology and Disease Modelling EMBL Heidelberg Germany	Germany (India)
CHAIGNE Agathe	Dept. of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Biophysics Utrecht University	Netherlands (France)
CONCHA Miguel	Dept. of Integrative Biology Instituto de Neurociencia Biomedica (BNI) Santiago	Chile
STUMPF Michael	Dept. of BioSciences University of Melbourne	Australia (Germany)

In cold blood: biophysical mechanisms of neuromuscular function in cold-active insects

TUTHILL John	Dept. of Neurobiology and Biophysics University of Washington Seattle	United States
BRAUCHI Sebastian	Dept. of Physiology Universidad Austral de Chile Valdivia	Chile
MARSHALL Katie	Dept. of Zoology University of British Columbia Vancouver	Canada
PENG Xubiao	School of Physics Beijing Institute of Technology	China

Across-Scale Ecological and Evolutionary Responses of Major Upwelling Ecosystems to Climate Change

VALDOVINOS Fernanda	Dept. of Environmental Science & Policy UC Davis	United States (Chile)
HUI Cang	Dept. of Mathematical Sciences Stellenbosch University	South Africa (China)
LIMA Fernando	Coastalwarming research group University of Porto	Portugal
REZENDE Enrico	Dept. of Ecology Pontifical Catholic University of Chile Santiago	Chile

Control of mammalian embryo patterning and morphogenesis by opto-electrochemical gradients

VEENVLIET Jesse	Stembryogenesis Lab MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics Dresden	Germany (Netherlands)
GLOWACKI Eric	Central European Institute of Technology CEITEC Brno University of Technology	Czech Republic (Poland)
SOZEN Berna	Dept. of Genetics Yale University New Haven	United States (Turkey)

Light-harvesting strategies from the forest floor: mapping the photonic morphospace of shade plants

BORSUK Aleca	Laboratory for Integrative Biodiversity Research New York Botanical Garden Bronx	United States
BELLO Valentina	Dept. of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering University of Pavia	Italy

Nervous system reorganization during complete eye regeneration in apple snails

FORLI Angelo	Dept. of LifeTech Italian Institute of Technology - IIT Genova	Italy
ACCORSI Alice	Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biology UC Davis	United States (Italy)

Probing the role of pattern recognition receptor diversity in non-immune evolutionary novelties

GOODHEART Jessica	Dept. of Invertebrate Zoology American Museum of Natural History New York	United States
BESSHO-UEHARA Manabu	Dept. of Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Tohoku University Sendai, Miyagi	Japan
SLEIGHT Vicky	School of Biological Sciences University of Aberdeen	United Kingdom

Genomics, Biosynthesis, Physiology and Synthesis of a Mysterious Ichthyotoxin Family

GREEN Nicholas	Dept. of Chemistry University of Otago Dunedin	New Zealand (Australia)
ANSAI Satoshi	Ushimado Marine Institute (UMI) Okayama University Setouchi	Japan
LUKOWSKI April	Scripps Institution of Oceanography UC San Diego La Jolla	United States

Windows to the past: functional evolution of vision in trilobites

SUMNER-ROONEY Lauren	Bristol Vision Institute University of Bristol	United Kingdom
LEE Gil Ju	School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Pusan National University Busan	R. of Korea
PARRY Luke	Dept. of Earth Sciences University of Oxford	United Kingdom

Tracing the Evolutionary History of Sensory Perception via TRP Channels

YAÑEZ GUERRA Luis Alfonso	School of biology University of Southampton	United Kingdom (Mexico)
BEZARES-CALDERON Luis	Plankton Senses Group CNRS - LBDV Villefranche-sur-Mer	France (Mexico)