



PROGRAM ACTIVITY PLAN

2020-2022

IMPLEMENTING HFSPO STRATEGIC PLAN

The HFSPO Program Activity Plan is a description of the activities that will be undertaken to implement the Board's Strategic Plan and decisions, in accord with the requirements of the HFSPO Statutes. It will be updated annually in accord with Board decisions.

Contents:

Funding frontier life science research and fellows

- Research Grants
- Long-Term and Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships
- Termination of the Career Development Award
- Peer review processes
- Council of Scientists' advice

Fostering international collaboration in life science research

- Awardees Meetings
- Scientific Workshops - Frontier Issues in Life Science Research outreach activities

Regulatory and administrative matters

- Statutory requirements
- HFSPO website
- Implementation of the EU regulation on data privacy (GDPR)
- Improving the database for award management and implementation of ORCID
- Secretariat development

Funding frontier life science research and fellows

HFSPO will undertake annual funding rounds in 2020, 2021 and 2022, funding awards that will commence from April in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The number of awards each year will be decided by the Board of Trustees based on recommendations of the Recommendations Committee and on the funding available as advised by the Treasurer.

Research Grants

Applications for Letters of Intent will be called for near the beginning of each calendar year. The grants review committee will work to identify around 300 of the best of these. They will then be reviewed by a peer review Selection Committee and invitations to submit a full application will be issued to approximately 80-100 applicants. These applications then will undergo rigorous review by the grants review committee in January/February, each with up to six written external reviews.

The awards' amount for Research Grants will be increased from 2020.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Applications for Long-Term and Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships will close in August each year. The Fellowships peer review committee will identify the top applications (around 150) and they will be discussed at the face to face meeting of the review committee in January/February each year.

The awards' amount for fellowships will be increased from 2020.

To ensure that outstanding non-biologists apply, HFSPo will consider whether to extend Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships to four years.

The Secretariat will work to further increase the visibility of Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships internationally.

Career Development Award

This award has been terminated. Applications will not be called for the Career Development award in the future. The final funding round for CDAs will have been conducted for the last time in 2018, for funding beginning in 2019.

Review processes

HFSPo will continue to recruit outstanding, highly active scientists to its review committees, with assistance from the Council of Scientists. This takes careful, thorough and ongoing diligence by the Directors of Research Grants and Fellowships, supported by the Secretary-General and the whole Secretariat.

The peer review committees will meet in Strasbourg in January and early February each year and in July for the research grants Selection Committee. The review committees will have a non-reviewing chair, well briefed in HFSPo guidelines and ethos.

The results of the review committees' meetings will be provided to the Recommendation Committee, which will submit its recommendations to the Board.

Council of Scientists

The Council of Scientists will meet at least once each year to provide the Board of Trustees with recommendations and with its independent view on the Program. The Council will judge applications for the Nakasone Award and provide its recommendation to the Board.

Fostering international collaboration in life science research

Awardees Meeting

A meeting to which all current award holders are invited will be held annually to further foster HFSPo's aim to increase interdisciplinary and intercontinental research collaboration.

This meeting, to which Board and Council members are also invited, affords awardees a means of testing their ideas on a top science audience and of forming new scientific collaborations. It assists fellows in their future career paths and allows awardees to provide direct feedback to the Secretariat, Council of Scientists and Board members in attendance.

The meeting will be held in collaboration with HFSPo members, with the aim that it be held in each HFSPo member over time. Organisational aspects of the meetings will be tendered to professional organisers.

Scientific Workshops - Frontier Issues in Life Science Research

The organisation of scientific workshops is one means by which HFSPo achieves its objective of "promoting and funding" basic life science research.

Life science is changing rapidly and HFSPo will conduct workshops each year on issues of the most importance to the "the promotion and funding of basic research in the life sciences".

HFSPo will continue to offer assistance to the establishment of a Global Biodata Coalition, an international cooperative initiative that grew from a HFSPo workshop, through end of 2020.

Outreach activities

HFSPo's website will continue to feature articles by HFSP awardees and other articles related to frontier science. Links with communications officers in the HFSPo Members will be enhanced, to increase bi- and multi-lateral communication activities.

Scientific Directors will develop stronger links with HFSPo Member research funding organisations to share views and increase mutual interactions.

At the request of HFSPo Members, HFSPo Scientific Directors will undertake visits to research institutions in HFSPo Members to promote HFSPo opportunities to top frontier scientists at leading institutions, with a particular emphasis on HFSPo Members from which application numbers are low, and to ensure that other disciplines are more aware of HFSPo's interdisciplinarity.

Regulatory and administrative matters

Statutory requirements

Each year, the Board will receive, for approval and publication, the Statutory Auditors report, and an Annual Report.

The Program Activity Plan will be presented for approval annually to the Board of Trustees.

HFSPo website

The redevelopment of the HFSPo website will be completed.

Implementation of the EU regulation on data privacy (GDPR)

HFSPo will continue its work to ensure compliance with this Regulation by the beginning of the 2020-2022 triennium, based on professional advice. Throughout the triennium, HFSPo will continue to work with its Data Protection Officer to ensure that we provide the protection required, within an ethos of continuous improvement.

Improving the database for award management and implementation of ORCID

The HFSPo database will undergo a renewal process to include important aspects of the measures for protecting private data within the HFSP database network and award processing and integration of ORCID identification.

Secretariat development

The Secretariat will continue to modernise and professionalise its administrative practices and processes as agreed by the Board of Trustees, incorporating advice of the Internal Audit Committee.

The next Secretary-General will be recruited during the triennium 2020-2022.