

Mission

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) supports basic research at the frontiers of the life sciences in the form of **research grants** for collaborations between laboratories in different countries and **postdoctoral fellowships** for scientists wishing to extend their expertise in a laboratory abroad. The highest international standards of scientific excellence and creativity guide the selection of HFSP awards.



15 Members

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Commission provide funding to the Program.

History

The heads of state of the G7 nations approved the proposal by former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan for establishing HFSP at their **1987** summit in Venice. The international scientific community discussed the scope of the Program and in **1989** the Secretariat started working in Strasbourg (France) to prepare the first awards for **1990**. The original supporting HFSP Members were the countries of the G7, together with the EU. Switzerland joined in **1991**. Australia, the Republic of Korea, India, New Zealand, Singapore and Israel have joined since **2004**.



Scientific Programs

HFSP supports a broad range of biological fields, from studies of the molecular basis of biological complexity to research into brain functions and biological systems through its research grants and postdoctoral fellowships.

- **Research Grants - Program** support collaboration on frontier projects in the life sciences involving laboratories in different countries with expertise in different fields and disciplines. In 2001, **Research Grants – Early Career** (formerly Young Investigator Grants) were introduced to support early career scientists within five years of obtaining their first independent position. Contact: grant@hfsp.org.
- **Long-Term Fellowships** support postdoctoral training abroad to enable young scientists to broaden their expertise. In 2005, the **Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships** were introduced to encourage scientists with a PhD outside the life sciences (e.g., physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science or engineering) to bring their expertise to work on biological problems. Contact: fellow@hfsp.org. Between 2003 and 2019, a total of 244 Career Development Awards have been awarded to HFSP fellows setting up their first laboratory^[1].
- **Awardees Meetings**, held each year in a different member country, bring together HFSP awardees to report on the results of their research and promote exchange between scientists from different fields.

^[1] The HFSP Career Development Award program was terminated in 2019.

Since 1990, HFSP has supported more than **7500** scientists throughout the world.



HFSP Nakasone Award



The **HFSP Nakasone Award** rewards conceptual breakthroughs at the frontiers of the life sciences. The award recognises the vision of former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan in the creation of HFSP. In 2022, two awards were made. The first went to **Aviv Regev** of Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, USA, for unravelling the biological processes controlling cellular phenotype through innovative computational, mathematical, and experimental approaches applied to single-cell genomics. The second prize went jointly to **Franz-Ulrich Hartl** of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Germany and **Arthur L.**

Horwich of Yale University, USA, for their discoveries revealing the functions and mechanisms of chaperone-mediated protein folding and the implication of their work in understanding human disease.

Achievements of HFSP Awardees

The excellence of HFSP awardees is shown by their ongoing success in obtaining national and international honours and awards.

- **28** former HFSP awardees have gone on to win a **Nobel Prize**.

HFSP awardees continue to be very successful in receiving competitive grants and prestigious awards. In 2020 and 2021, they were among the winners of the Lasker Award, the Brain Prize from the Lundbeck Foundation, the Canada Gairdner International Award, the Leibniz Award, the Breakthrough Prize – Life Sciences, the Gruber Neuroscience Prize, the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine, and the Imperial Prize and Japan Academy Prize.

HFSP funding of basic research generates a constant flow of applied benefits in medicine, material science and chemistry (see <https://www.hfsp.org/hfsp-news-events>).

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