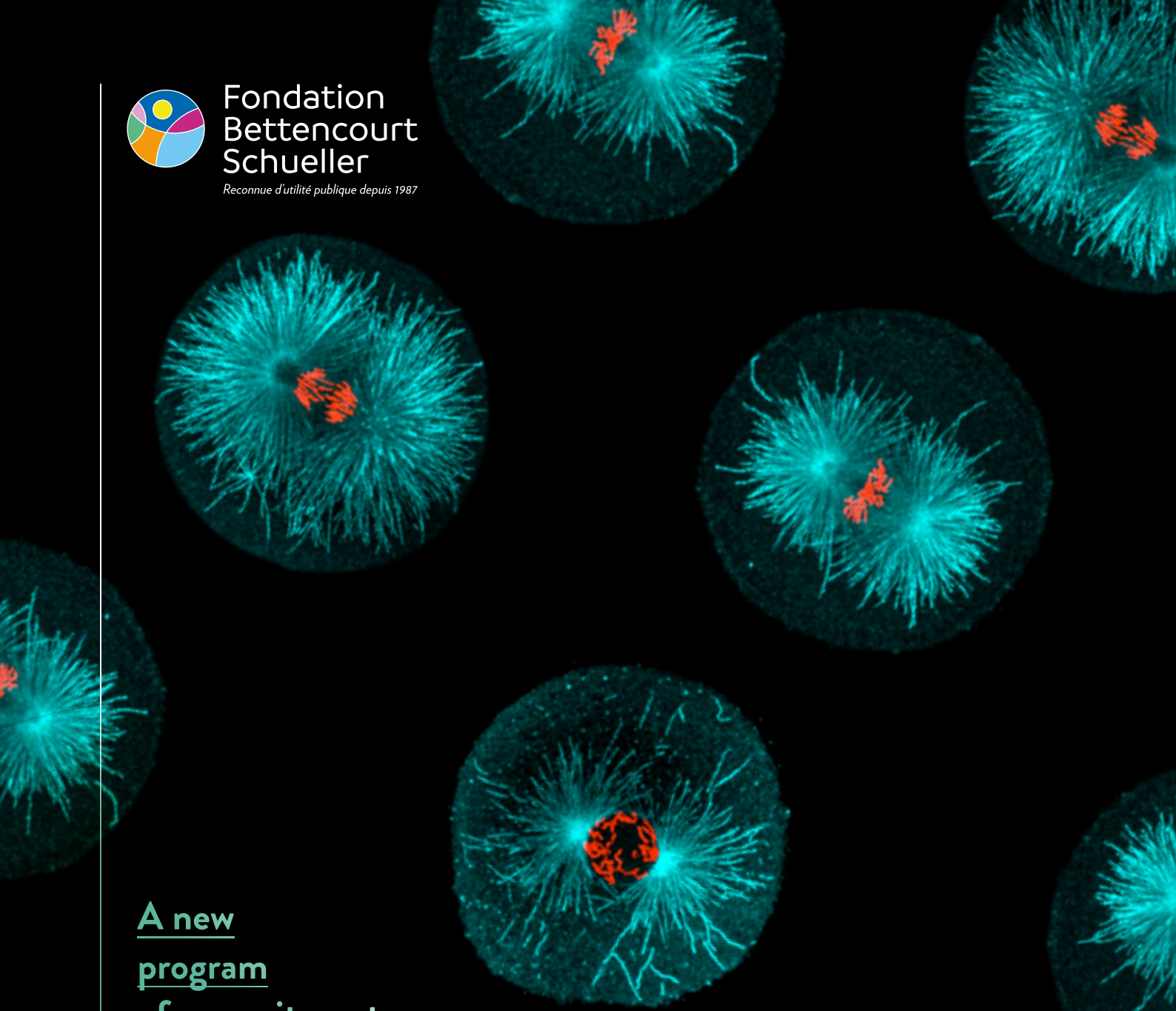
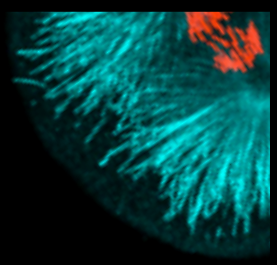
Fondation
Bettencourt
Schueller

Reconnue d'utilité publique depuis 1987



A new
program
of commitment

IMPULSCIENCE®



to boost
the attractiveness
of French research

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EDITORIAL

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'For more than 30 years, our family Foundation has committed to supporting life science researchers. We have always striven to reveal national talents who are pushing the boundaries of our understanding of the living world and contributing to the influence of French research. Our conviction remains intact: human health is our most precious asset.

We now need to go further. The influence and appeal of French research is diminishing in a world where scientific breakthroughs are fundamental to humankind. Going further means launching a new kind of project resulting from a precise analysis of the research sector in France, with all its strengths and weaknesses. It means creating an ambitious program that addresses the difficulties encountered by talented mid-career researchers. A program that gives them the time and resources to carry out their research projects in our country, and finally, a program that boosts scientific innovation. We have called this program Impulscience®.

Working alongside French and European research organizations, the Foundation intends to complement government action and existing measures. The aim is to draw on the undeniable expertise of the European Research Council (ERC) in identifying talented researchers and funding their work. Impulscience® will support exceptional researchers who are shortlisted during ERC calls for projects but, despite the quality of the projects, do not obtain funding due to European budget limitations. These researchers will be selected by the Foundation's international Scientific Committee under the leadership of Prof. Hugues de Thé, in line with its spirit, values and enthusiasm. Every year, we will support seven new researchers over a five-year period, or up to 35 researchers at any time, with funding of €2 million each.

The birth of Impulscience® is the start of a great adventure. As we stand at the threshold of new discoveries, we are both full of hope and excited about the future. We will do everything possible to ensure that this new program makes an impact with expanded potential and immediate results.

I hope I will soon be able to share results from the first researchers benefitting from this support. I wish them all the courage and creativity they may need.'

Françoise Bettencourt Meyers
President of Fondation Bettencourt Schueller

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller and life sciences

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REVEALING TALENTS

€345 million allocated to scientific sponsorship since 1987

470 researchers awarded scientific prizes since 1989

195 projects supported since 1990

The Covid-19 pandemic has provided a stark reminder of our most precious asset being human health and the crucial importance of health sovereignty. Already more than 30 years ago, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller committed to supporting life science researchers, aiming to reveal national talents who are pushing the boundaries of our knowledge of the living world and helping improve health.

Accounting for more than 50% of the Foundation's donations since its creation in 1987, this commitment was originally made by Liliane Bettencourt, a fervent supporter of researchers' creativity and the hope brought by their work, and earlier her father Eugène Schueller, a brilliant entrepreneur and chemist passionate about research. Fondation Bettencourt Schueller has always been invested in boosting the influence of French research and supporting exceptional researchers.

Seeking excellence, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller supports above all passionate and talented researchers who test and confirm hypotheses to improve our knowledge of the living world. Its aim is to provide practical assistance at critical times in their career, along with the freedom they need to pursue their work.

The experimental fields are infinite, given that the living world is complex and evolving. The avenues of research are often unpredictable and major breakthroughs can be made on unexpected paths. To truly unleash creativity and innovation, research requires freedom. This is the idea behind Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's support for fundamental research.

Research also takes time. It must be carried out calmly in the long term, sheltered from impatience, understandable as it may be.
Time enables researchers to make progress that offers practical solutions for treating diseases or disabilities. Because time is so important, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller is committed for the long haul.

Up until 2021, the Foundation awarded four annual prizes that rewarded and encouraged researchers at critical times in their careers: to conduct post-doctoral international fellowships, create autonomous teams, carry out ambitious projects and recognize exceptional breakthroughs. It also supported original, risky research projects through case-by-case funding.

Since the 2000s, the Foundation has expanded its scientific sponsorship from direct research funding to scientist training. This development came from the conviction that research enables scientists to 'learn to learn' and recognize curiosity as a driver of scientific commitment and innovation. In this way, the Foundation helps to promote science, especially among young people, as an exciting field of commitment, a route to personal satisfaction and a valuable, socially useful activity.

Examples of researchers supported by the Foundation

© Baard Ivar Basmo

© Baard Ivar Basmo

May-Britt et Edvard Moser
2006 Liliane Bettencourt Prize
for Life Sciences

Their fundamental discoveries in the field of neurobiology were later also awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work on grid cells, neurons found in the entorhinal cortex (a region of the brain´s memory network) that the Mosers demonstrated provide an intrinsic universal code for space.

© Philippe Caron

Stanislas Dehaene
2006 Bettencourt Coups d'Élan Prize
for French Research

Stanislas Dehaene is a leading researcher in cognitive learning science. In addition to his neuroscientific activity, he has contributed to French education policy as Chairman of the Scientific Council of National Education since its creation in January 2018. Since 2011, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller has also supported the Cognitive Neuroimaging Unit (Unicog), founded and directed by Stanislas Dehaene.

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Nathalie Vergnolle
2006 ATIP-Avenir Program
and 2015 Bettencourt Coups d'Élan Prize for French Research

After an expatriation to Canada, thanks to Fondation Bettencourt Schueller Nathalie Vergnolle returned to France to carry out research at Inserm. There, she created the Digestive Health Research Institute (IRSD) in Toulouse that she continues to direct today.

© Jean Picon / Say Who

Rosa Cossart
2008 Bettencourt Coups d'Élan Prize for French Research
and 2019 Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences

A neuroscience researcher and specialist in the development of hippocampal circuits, Rosa Cossart is the Director of the Mediterranean Institute of Neurobiology (Inmed) in Marseille. In 2021, she became a member of the Foundation's Scientific Committee.

A REINFORCED COMMITMENT

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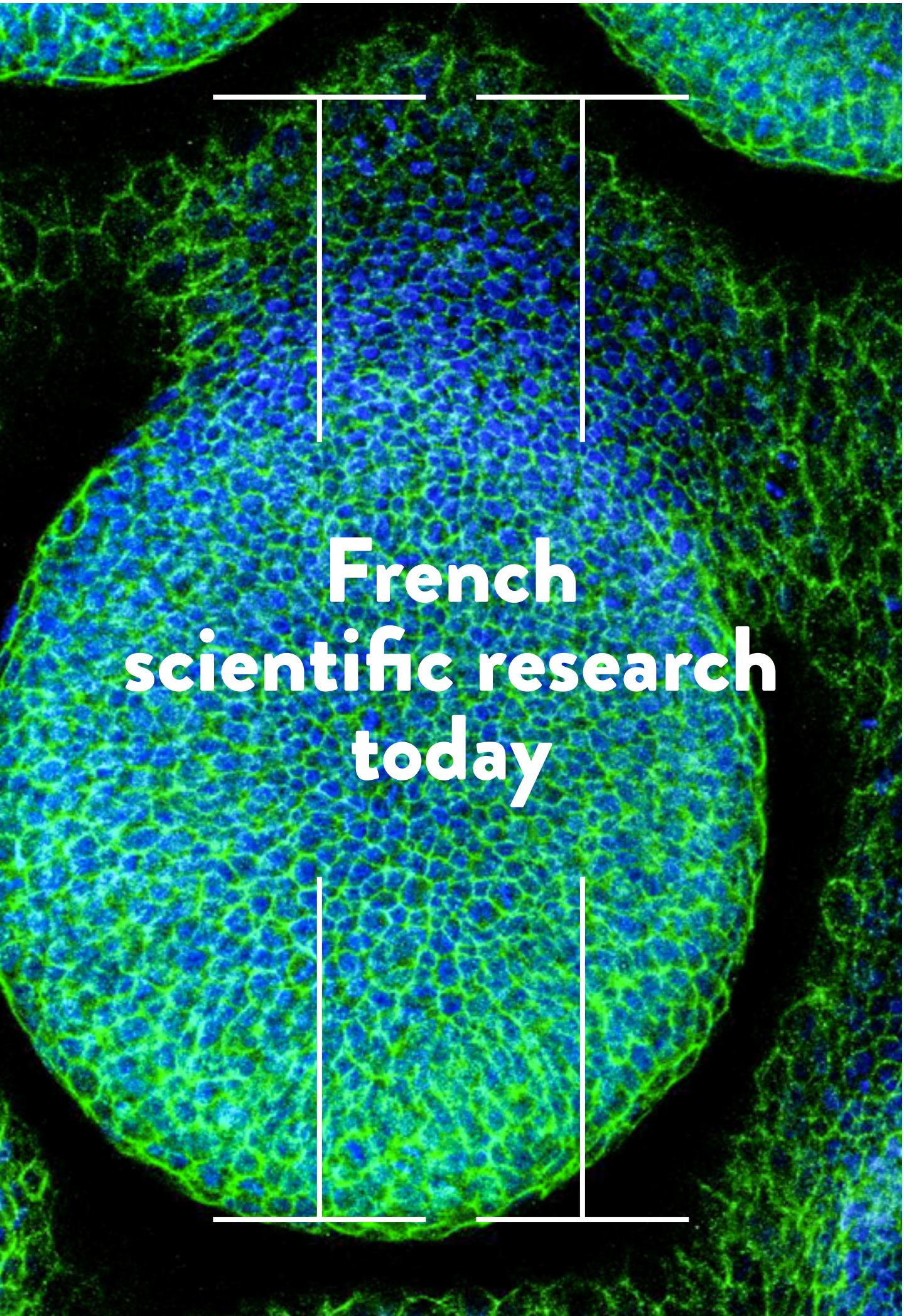
In 2018–2019, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller commissioned an independent report to reassess the relevance of its support and its impact on beneficiary researchers' careers in a context of evolving research, researcher needs and modes of funding. The report showed that the Foundation's support had an extremely positive impact on researchers' professional paths. In particular, its prizes offered decisive support in terms of freedom, stability, credibility and security at a critical time in their careers, whether they were working on a risky project or at critical juncture. Further, they provided research projects with significant visibility, a springboard to their reception by the scientific community. And above all, the financial support clearly improved working conditions for researchers. However, it appeared that the significant impact of donations on research output was dependent on substantial, long-term funds. Consequently, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller decided to reinforce its commitment to researchers and accelerate its efforts to consolidate the strengths of French research in the face of society's major challenges to help protect France's position as a research powerhouse.

In 2020, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller made an exceptional donation to Covid-19 research, funding eight research projects across France. It supported the Foundation for Medical Research, linked to the National Research Agency (ANR, an institution funding research projects, reporting to the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation) and the REACTing consortium, a French multidisciplinary alliance of research teams and laboratories addressing health crises linked to emerging infectious diseases.



French scientific research today

© Manceau Lab / Collège de France

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller is convinced that French research has tremendous strengths.

First of all, France draws on a population of high-quality researchers. In 2014, the country had 266,700 full-time equivalent researchers, ranking it second in the European Union, after Germany and before the United Kingdom.[1] Today, it has around 305,200 research directors, professors, lecturers, research fellows and corporate researchers, 28% of whom are women.[2] The land of Louis Pasteur, Marie Curie and numerous other scientists, France has produced 65 Nobel laureates, ranking it fourth worldwide.

French research is open to the world. 41% of students registered on French doctoral programs are foreigners and 63.3% of French scientific publications result from international cooperation.[3]

Finally, French researchers benefit from more professional security than most other developed countries. In France, researchers have time to choose and conduct their research. They have more latitude to take risks, innovate and explore, and they are more satisfied with their work lives than the European average (83% vs. 78%).[4] Civil-service research posts offer job security that allows scientists to focus on their work without considering the immediate economic importance of their results (the characteristic of fundamental research).

Unfortunately, French research is suffering from some well-known weaknesses.

French research is becoming less competitive on the international stage. In 2017, France invested only 2.2% of its GDP in research, far behind Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Sweden, which invested more than 3%.[5] In 2019, France was only the eighth most prolific producer of scientific publications, behind China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, India and Italy.[6] From 2009 to 2019, its share of global scientific publications dropped by around a third, from 3.8% to 2.6%.[7]

Further, researchers must spend considerable time handling an increasing volume of administrative tasks,[8] as well as seeking and managing funding, instead of conducting scientific research. These difficulties are particularly acute mid-career, when significant long-term funding is crucial to the survival of young teams (enabling them to take risks, enjoy freedom, build their skills, secure their salaries and apply for other funding).

The research sector holds insufficient appeal. After at least five years of university studies,[9] the gross monthly salary for a doctoral contract (€1,758), when applicable, is barely more than the gross national minimum wage (€1,521). PhDs are undervalued and in fact were only included in the National Directory of Professional Certification (RNCP) from March 2019. This lack of recognition is also felt later in researchers' careers. According to a 2013 European Commission report, French scientists' average salary was 63% of the OECD average in purchasing power parity.[10]

For all these reasons, young people are increasingly turning away from scientific and research careers. In 2018, the number of students registered on doctoral programs dropped by 12.4% compared to 2009.[11]

This situation is cause for concern, suggesting a continued decline in the excellence and influence of French scientists in the coming years, despite the pandemic reminding us of the need for science and research to provide protection from major health risks and enable effective action when they arise.

In any case, France cannot remain a scientific leader without supporting its researchers, who are key to major breakthroughs now and in the future. France must catch up and reinforce its potential to preserve our scientific and health sovereignty.

1
État de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche en France, n°10, April 2017

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État de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation en France, n°14, April 2020

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État de l'Emploi scientifique en France, MESRI, October 2020

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Based on Eurostat-OECD https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/fr/web/science-technology-innovation/visualisations

8
La recherche publique en France en 2019 : analyses, réflexions et propositions du Comité national de la recherche scientifique, June 7, 2019

9
Attractivité des emplois et des carrières scientifiques, September 23, 2019, working group report for the development of the French Multiannual Research Programming Law

10
https://www.lemonde.fr/sciences/article/2020/10/19/un-rattrapage-de-salaires-pour-les-chercheurs_6056584_1650684.html

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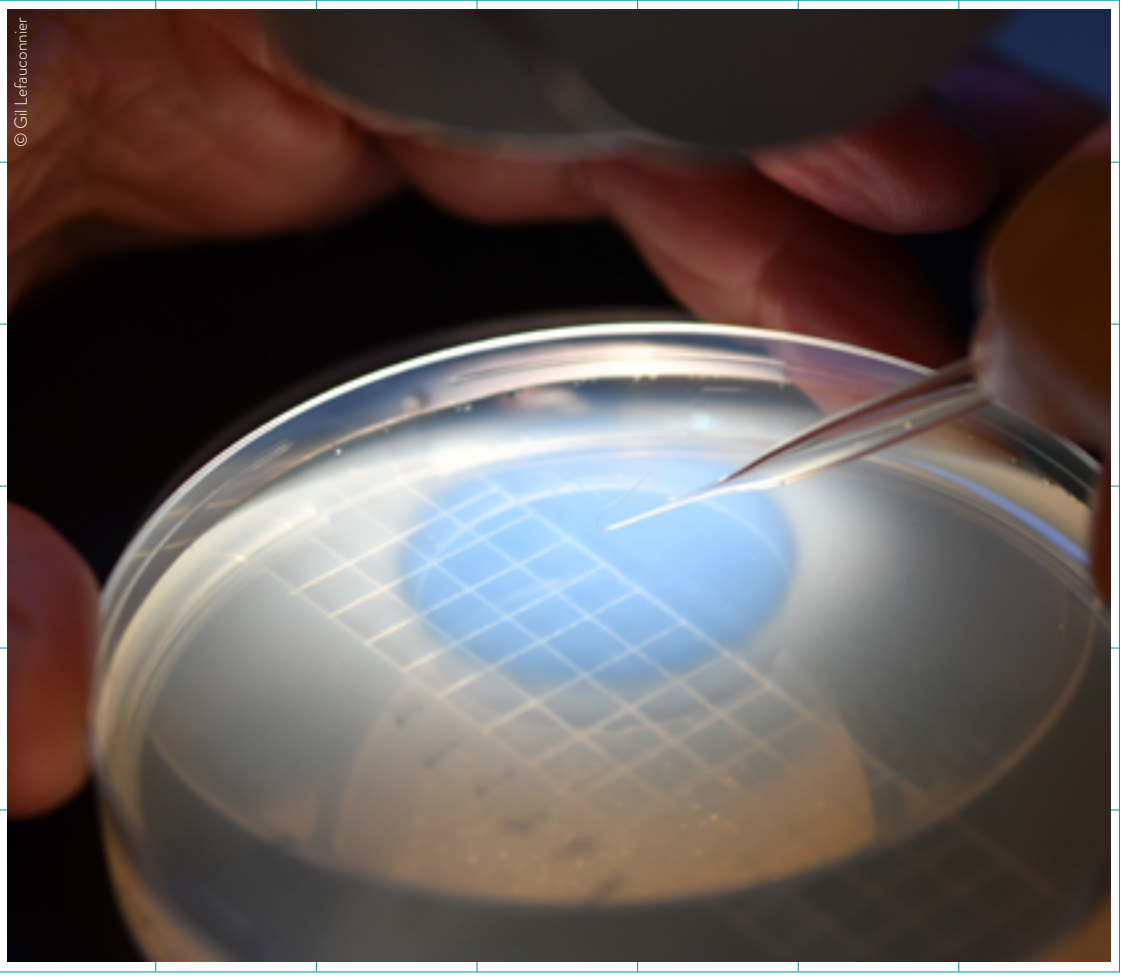

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Three questions to

Hugues de Thé

Chairman of Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's Scientific Committee

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What explains France's decline as an international scientific leader?

We need to invest more in research in general and life sciences in particular. This need is not new, but it has been accentuated in the last 10 years, as other countries have become more powerful. Unlike France, other countries have gradually increased the importance of biology over the last few decades.

What's more, our ecosystem is suffering from a certain inflexibility. Our institutions (CNRS, Inserm, INRAE, CEA, universities, hospitals, etc.) often work in parallel instead of cooperating effectively. Unfortunately, red tape (which can be extreme) and cost-cutting are holding back investments, despite flexibility, speed, and simplicity being essential to a system's agility and successful projects. As a result, the gap is widening with other countries. Proportionally speaking, French biology researchers are awarded fewer European Research Council (ERC) grants than their Swiss or German counterparts. Many brilliant students are turning away from research and choosing alternative careers, particularly because of the poor pay and increasingly difficult working conditions.

What are the strengths of French research?

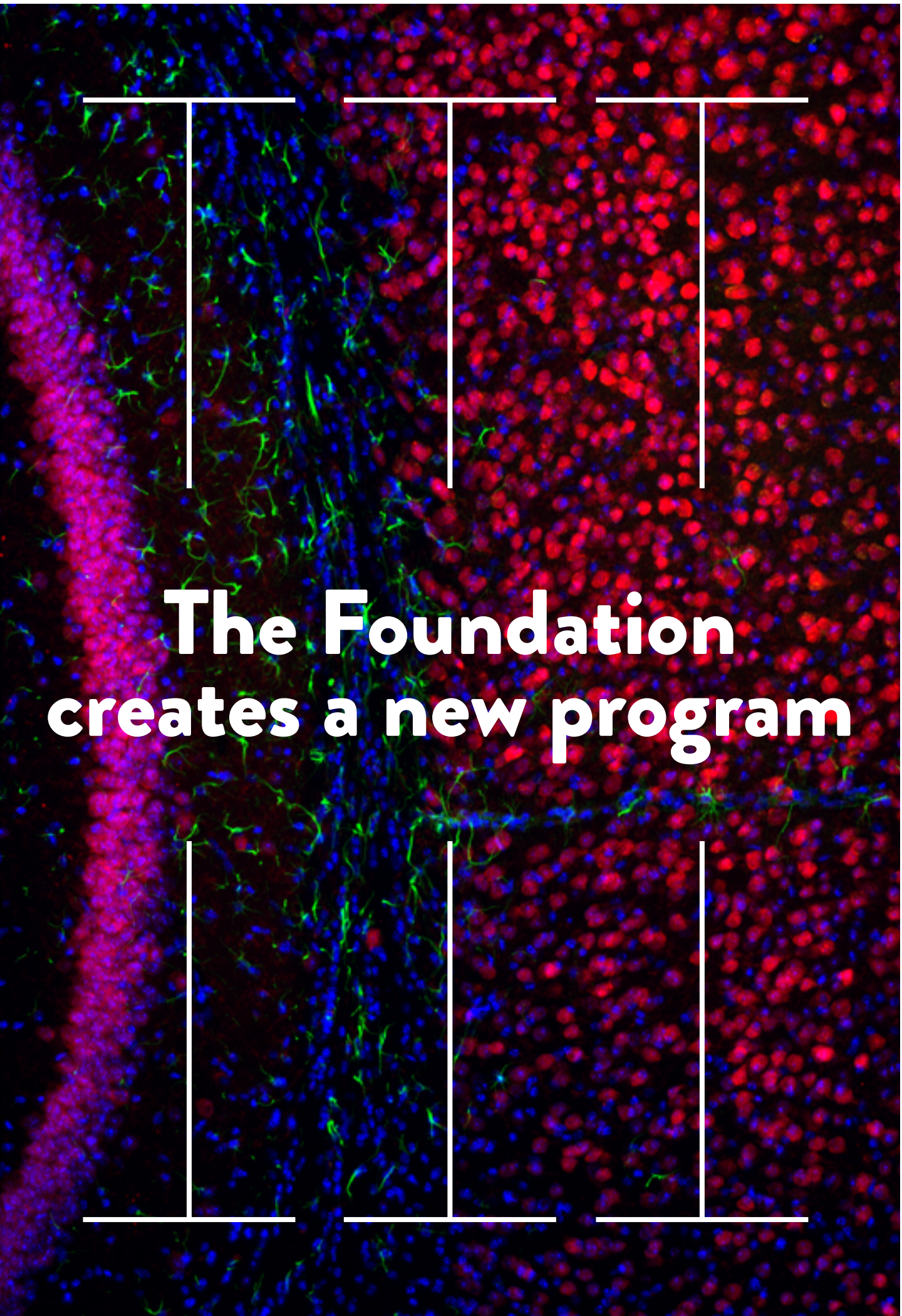
France still remains a major scientific leader with undeniable strengths. We have a class of high-quality, very committed senior researchers. French researchers benefit from civil-servant status, which enables them to conduct research in stable conditions with the required quality of results to pursue long-term work. They also achieve tenure at around the age of 35, compared to 45 for their European colleagues. This enables them to explore, find their own path and undertake more difficult work, particularly in fundamental research.

Our tradition of supporting fundamental research in France is essential and dates back to the creation of CNRS more than 80 years ago and Inserm more than 50 years ago. Major breakthroughs often come from chance, intuition and the ability to ask the right questions over time, considering them from different angles. It is essential to maintain this capacity to explore. In France, we are able to investigate with the sole aim of furthering knowledge. We must do everything in our power to protect our strengths and prevent young researchers from becoming demotivated.

In practical terms, how can we support our researchers at the highest level?

The French system gets by with a combination of small funds that have a short-term impact. There is a major lack of French applications for ERC grants. It is essential to push our French talents, who can legitimately apply for this form of support for excellence. Sometimes we do not enable researchers to cumulate different forms of funding, like European and French endowments. Conducting research means taking both financial and intellectual risks. We must support our researchers and put the essence of research – creativity and freedom – back at the heart of their activity.

Professor Hugues de Thé is a French physician-scientist at Institut de Recherche Saint-Louis, the University of Paris and the Collège de France. He has been the holder of the Cellular and Molecular Oncology Chair at the Collège de France since 2014 and a member of the French Academy of Sciences since 2013. His work at the interface of biology and medicine has radically transformed care for a form of leukemia.



The Foundation creates a new program

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BOOSTING THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF FRENCH RESEARCH

In this context, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller has decided to increase the impact of its support for French research.

The global pandemic continues to remind us of the need to respond quickly to health challenges, which are prominent in our societies. Researchers need more long-term resources to boost the appeal and influence of French life sciences. The goal of making France a leader in research and health sovereignty has been restated recently and will mobilize substantial public and private resources up to 2030.

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller is conscious of its responsibility and keen to do whatever it can to provide the right support and help resolve the major problems of our times. That is why the Foundation has decided to increase its scientific sponsorship and further reinforce its commitment to talented researchers who are bringing new ideas, energy and leadership. **The desire to offer researchers the freedom to innovate is driving its action.**

Starting in 2022, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller will propose an ambitious new support program for mid-career researchers, **Impulscience®**.

This new program is based on three priorities:

- high standards because the Foundation chooses to help exceptional researchers who are renowned for the high quality of their work;
- utility because this complementary action addresses clear needs;
- and complementarity because it intends to complete, rather than replace government action and existing measures.

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller will renew its commitment to life sciences by reinforcing its support for major French life science talents. With this new program, the Foundation address two imperatives – preserving the freedom of French researchers and supporting them in the long term – with a single goal in mind: producing lasting improvements to human health.

IMPULSCIENCE®
a new support program for researchers

To identify talented researchers, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller will draw on the indisputable expertise of the European Research Council (ERC) in selecting and funding European fundamental research.

Impulscience® will support exceptional researchers who are shortlisted during ERC calls for projects but, despite the quality of their projects, do not obtain funding, due to European budget limitations. These researchers will be selected by the Foundation's Scientific Committee, in line with the Foundation's spirit, values and enthusiasm.

Every year, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller will support seven mid-career researchers to promote this crucial step in the development of life science projects. Acting at this critical time is one of the ways in which the program offers something new: each project will receive €2 million in funding over five years, along with the host institution's overheads and a personal bonus for the researcher.

Through this new Impulscience® program, the Foundation aims to offer researchers the time and freedom they need to work in the best possible conditions. Its ambition is to fund top-level scientific work, while helping restore France's position as an international research leader.

This program is open to researchers who:

- present an innovative life science research project;
- have applied and been shortlisted for the ERC's Starting, Consolidator or Advanced grants during the previous year ('A' score in Step 2 of the ERC evaluation) without obtaining ERC funding;
- are aged under 50 on January 1 of the year in which their applications are assessed by Fondation Bettencourt Schueller, and apply at least 5 years after obtaining their PhD;
- work in a public laboratory in France at the time of applying or at latest at the start of their projects.

Certain extensions of eligibility may be granted in specific cases (maternity, illness, etc.).

Led by Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's Scientific Committee, the selection progress will be explained in the rules for the call for candidates, available on the Foundation's website.

The first call for candidates will be open in 2022.

THE SPONSOR OF THE IMPULSCIENCE PROGRAM

Emmanuelle Charpentier
French microbiologist, geneticist and biochemist
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020

'The Impulscience® program offers additional funding to fill the gap that exists for mid-career researchers. There is a need for increased resources to provide a kind of 'impulse' that is attractive to young people. I agreed to be the sponsor of this new program because personally and professionally I have encountered exactly this problem.'

'The creation by Fondation Bettencourt Schueller of this new program to support researchers is excellent news for French scientific research. Drawing on the expertise of the European Research Council (ERC) to identify exceptional scientific projects, it offers new prospects to scientists who have not been able to receive funds from the ERC's limited budget. We hope this will encourage candidates for ERC grants. The involvement of stakeholders at various levels is useful for creating a virtuous dynamic and ultimately helping to develop life science knowledge at the highest level.'

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
former President
of the European Research
Council (ERC)

Created in 2007, the European Research Council (ERC) is part of the European research and innovation funding program (Horizon Europe). Recent ERC leaders include French mathematician Jean-Pierre Bourguignon (president from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2019 and interim president from July 27, 2020 to August 31, 2021) and Maria Leptin (president starting on November 1, 2021).
With a €16 billion budget for 2021-2027, the ERC awards individual research grants every year to researchers from European countries in every scientific field.
Once selected, laureates must carry out their research in the European Union or an associated country.

The ERC offers five different grants:
- ***Starting Grant***, for young researchers, 2-7 years after completing their PhD: €1.5 million for a 5-year period
- ***Consolidator Grant*** for mid-career researchers, 7-12 years after completing their PhD: €2 million for a 5-year period
- ***Advanced Grant*** for established researchers: €2.5 million for a 5-year period
- ***Proof of Concept Grant*** for existing ERC grant holders to help market the results obtained with their grants: up to €150,000 for an 18-month period
- ***Synergy Grant***, for groups of 2-4 researchers presenting a solid track record of discoveries and a shared project: up to €10 million for a 6-year period.

Four questions to

Olivier Brault
Director General
of Fondation Bettencourt Schueller

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Why has Fondation Bettencourt Schueller decided to shake up its scientific sponsorship with the launch of this new program in 2022?

First of all, we generally like to challenge ourselves, not rest on our laurels, and take the time to step back and reflect critically on how we could do better. That's the approach we took when reviewing our commitment to the life sciences two years ago, based on previous impact studies.

As a result, around 450 researchers have been awarded our scientific prizes, while around 200 projects have been funded and several thousand researchers have received indirect support, often over several years. In research, as well as scientific training and science outreach, some truly innovative initiatives have been introduced (dual medicine-science university curricula, the Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity, Fondation Pour l'Audition, etc.).

Yet we thought we could do more to help our country in the global scientific race by focusing on supporting researchers who commit, at the highest level, to furthering our understanding of the living world and ultimately improving human health. So, on the one hand we see France as a nation of research and discovery that is losing steam, and on the other hand we believe a new phase of strategic focus would reinforce the impact of our contribution.

You've decided to support fewer researchers every year but increase the grants awarded to them. Why is this?

A public-interest family foundation is essentially a private organization that supports the general interest in line with its philanthropic ambitions. We are convinced women and men make a difference, sometimes as much as public policies or systems. With our faith in people, what do we see? That the number of decisive publications, which are the main marker of success in science, are not proportional to the number of researchers. That the freedom to choose projects, which is the great strength of the French system, all too often comes at the expense of regular limits on operational resources. That the best talents frequently have trouble funding their projects after the first phases that are often supported by numerous institutions. That the brain drain from France has not yet been stemmed because many American and European research institutions offer more attractive working conditions.

So we've decided not to enter a race for the number of researchers supported but instead increase our funding to attract and keep exceptional researchers in France who we can reasonably expect will publish, innovate and make breakthroughs in knowledge and our health.

The Foundation has decided to rely on the European Research Council to select researchers. Why is this?

The scientific community is unanimous in recognizing that in just a few years, the ERC, a very successful but rather low-profile European institution, has become the new gold standard in excellence. There are two main reasons for this. First, the process for evaluating and selecting laureates is world-class: its specialist life science panels, the quantity and quality of its experts and its professional processes all create a system that is held in high esteem worldwide. In addition, the sizeable grants awarded by the ERC to selected researchers ensure optimal working conditions for several years.

Paradoxically, given that the French research and innovation system is underfunded, there are too few French applicants for ERC grants.

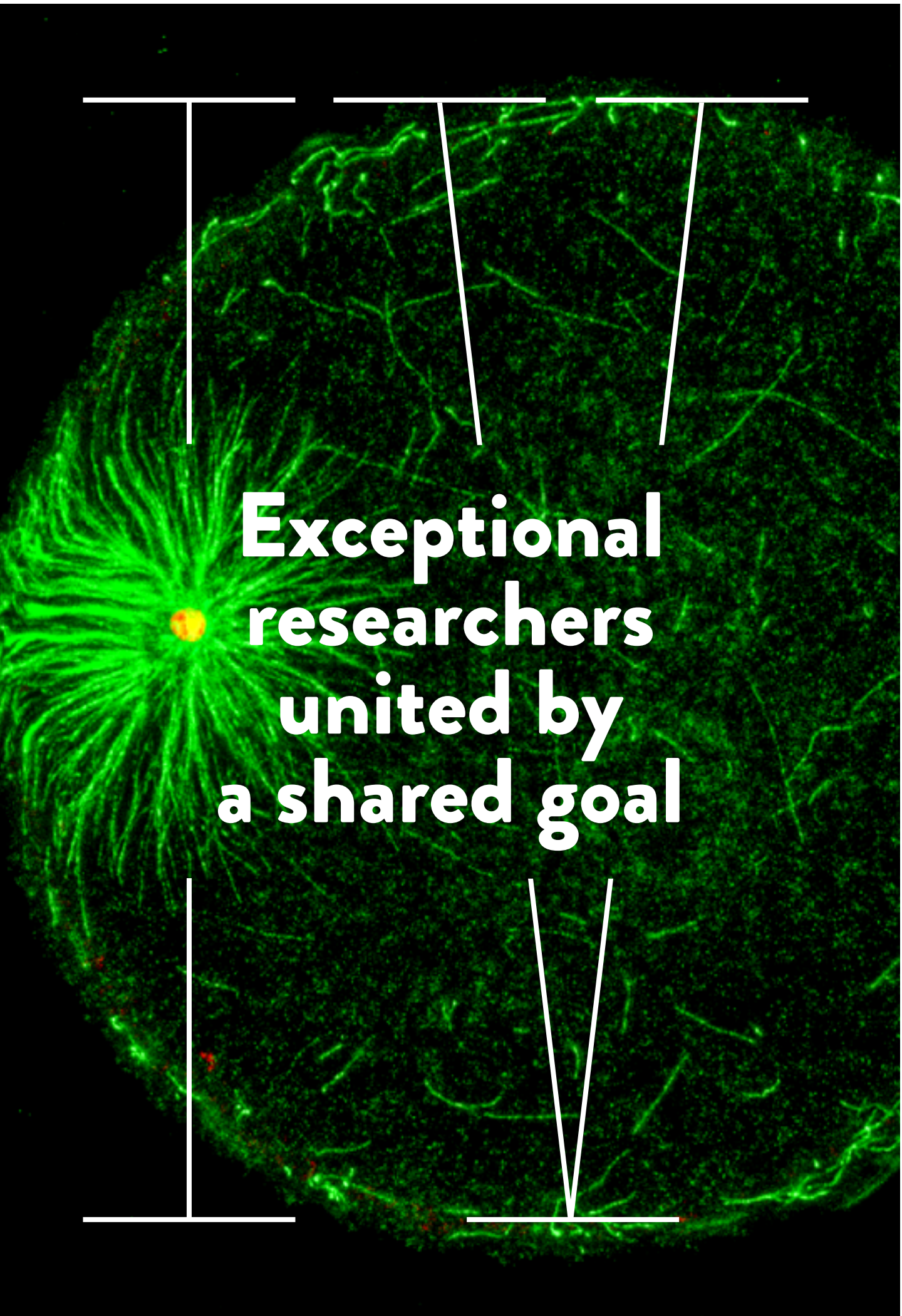
Moreover, despite the very large multiyear budgets made available by the European Union, the ERC lacks the financial means to fund all the researchers it considers top level.

That's why we've designed a program with dual benefits: decisive support for researchers and a boost in French applications for ERC grants.

What's the vocation of the research network the Foundation is going to create for its laureates and scientific project owners?

This is an additional benefit of the support we're going to bring researchers. Once again, we're focusing on quality. Our idea is to first listen to researchers' needs and then try to meet them, connect people, and promote best practice exchanges and shared scientific experiences – possibly with collaborations or initiatives arising from these exchanges.

We still have work to do to make this aspect of the project as relevant as possible. But we're convinced a group is stronger than a collection of individuals. We've already experienced this with laureates of the *Liliane Bettencourt Prize pour l'intelligence de la main*, and with the social entrepreneurs and the heads of associations we support through our social sponsorship. In addition to funds and personalized support, this group focus offers new prospects and sparks new initiatives.



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A NEW NETWORK OF TALENTS

The Foundation will create and providing lasting support to a network of talents to reinforce new collaborations and initiatives between researchers and improve scientific output in life sciences.

When these talents meet, they always have fruitful ideas to share on their research. The Foundation wants to encourage this synergy by setting up a network of women and men who share its values and have extra resources to explore new avenues of research.

This network of talents will be supported by the Foundation and monitored by its Scientific Committee. Laureates will be able to take part in events and exchange meetings, as well as benefit from mentoring and training programs suiting their needs (management, communication, etc.).

The Foundation will also encourage collaborations aimed at producing new scientific publications and enabling new patient-oriented breakthroughs. An increase is expected in patent and technology transfers to medicine and start-ups.

This network will be open to former and future Fondation Bettencourt Schueller life science laureates and project owners.

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'We must all support our researchers and do our best to be at the cutting edge of global scientific excellence in life sciences. The support for talents offered by this new Fondation Bettencourt Schueller program will make a strong contribution to boosting the appeal of our national research.'

Gilles Bloch
Inserm Chairman
and Chief Executive Officer

'Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's support will be unique in France. This significant long-term financial support will enable French scientific research to advance, while improving working conditions for the selected researchers and their teams. We hope this new program will encourage French applicants for ERC grants and improve the success rate of French researchers – a goal we share with the Foundation.'

Thierry Damerval
Chairman and Managing Director
of the French National Research Agency (ANR)

'The Impulscience® program provides the French biomedical research ecosystem with a welcome new impetus. Fondation Bettencourt Schueller wants to firmly consolidate the strengths of our research. Trust and freedom are two essential ingredients for enabling our researchers to perform at their best.'

André Le Bivic
Director of the CNRS
Institute of Biological Sciences

A RENEWED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's Scientific Committee is a group of independent experts in charge of guiding scientific sponsorship and deciding on action.
In 2021, this Scientific Committee has been renewed with 14 French and international experts to better represent all life science disciplines and support the deployment of the Impulscience® program.

Prof. Hugues de Thé, Chairman

Professor at the Collège de France, Holder of the *Oncologie cellulaire et moléculaire* Chair – Paris, France

Member of the French Academy of Sciences – Paris

Prof. Paola Bovolenta

Professor at the Center for Molecular Biology 'Severo Ochoa' (CMBSO), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) – Spain

Chair of the *Tissue and Organ Homeostasis* program, CMBSO, CSIC-UAM

Dr. Rosa Cossart

CNRS Research Director

Leader of the *Empreinte du développement sur l'hippocampe adulte* team at the Mediterranean Institute of Neurobiology (Inmed) – Marseille, France

Director of Inmed – Marseille

Prof. Cédric Blanpain

Professor of Development Biology and Stem Cells

Director of the Stem Cell and Cancer Laboratory at the Free University of Brussels – Belgium

Member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine

'Fondation Bettencourt Schueller is bringing new momentum to French research with the Impulscience® support program. The increased incentive for French researchers to apply for ERC grants will build closer links with the European scientific community and create new opportunities to highlight innovation and creativity that will guarantee France a stronger and more sustainable position.'

Prof. Edith Heard

Professor at the Collège de France, Holder of the *Épigénétique et mémoire cellulaire* Chair – Paris, France

Director General of EMBL – Heidelberg, Germany

Member of the US National Academy of Sciences and of the US National Academy of Medicine – United States

Prof. Veit Hornung

Professor of Immunobiochemistry,
Gene Center and Department of Biochemistry,
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
– Germany

Prof. Xavier Jeunemaitre

Genetics University Professor and Hospital Practitioner (PU-PH), Department of Genetics at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital (HEGP) – Paris, France

Co-Director of the *Genetics to understand the physiopathology of arterial diseases* research team at the PARCC-HEGP research center

Dean of the Faculty of Health
at the University of Paris

Prof. Gérard Karsenty

Professor of Genetics and Development,
Columbia University – New York, United States

Chair of the Genetics and Development Department, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University Medical Center – New York

Prof. Marc Lecuit

Medical University Professor and Hospital Practitioner (PU-PH), Faculty of Health at the University of Paris, Deputy Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Adult Disease at the Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital – Paris, France

Director of the Department of Cell Biology and Infection, in charge of the Biology of Infection Unit at the National Reference Center and the Listeria WHO Collaborating Center at Institut Pasteur – Paris

Prof. Daniel Louvard

Honorary Director, Institut Curie – Paris, France

Emeritus Director of Research, CNRS – Paris

Honorary Professor, Institut Pasteur – Paris

Member of the French Academy of Sciences – Paris

Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences – United States

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Vice President for Responsible Transformation at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) – Lausanne, Switzerland

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'France is a research powerhouse with very solid strengths. However, the nation scarcely exists as a global competitor. Fondation Bettencourt Schueller's support is an effective way to breathe new life into French scientific innovation and enable it to step up on the European stage.'

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As a family foundation and a public-interest foundation at the same time, the Fondation Bettencourt Schueller has chosen to 'take talents to the top' to contribute to France's success and influence.

To this end, the Foundation seeks, selects, supports and promotes women and men who are rethinking our future in three fields that make a tangible difference to the common good: life sciences, the arts and an inclusive society.

With a philanthropic mindset, the foundation takes action through prizes, donations, personalized support, effective communication and co-created initiatives.

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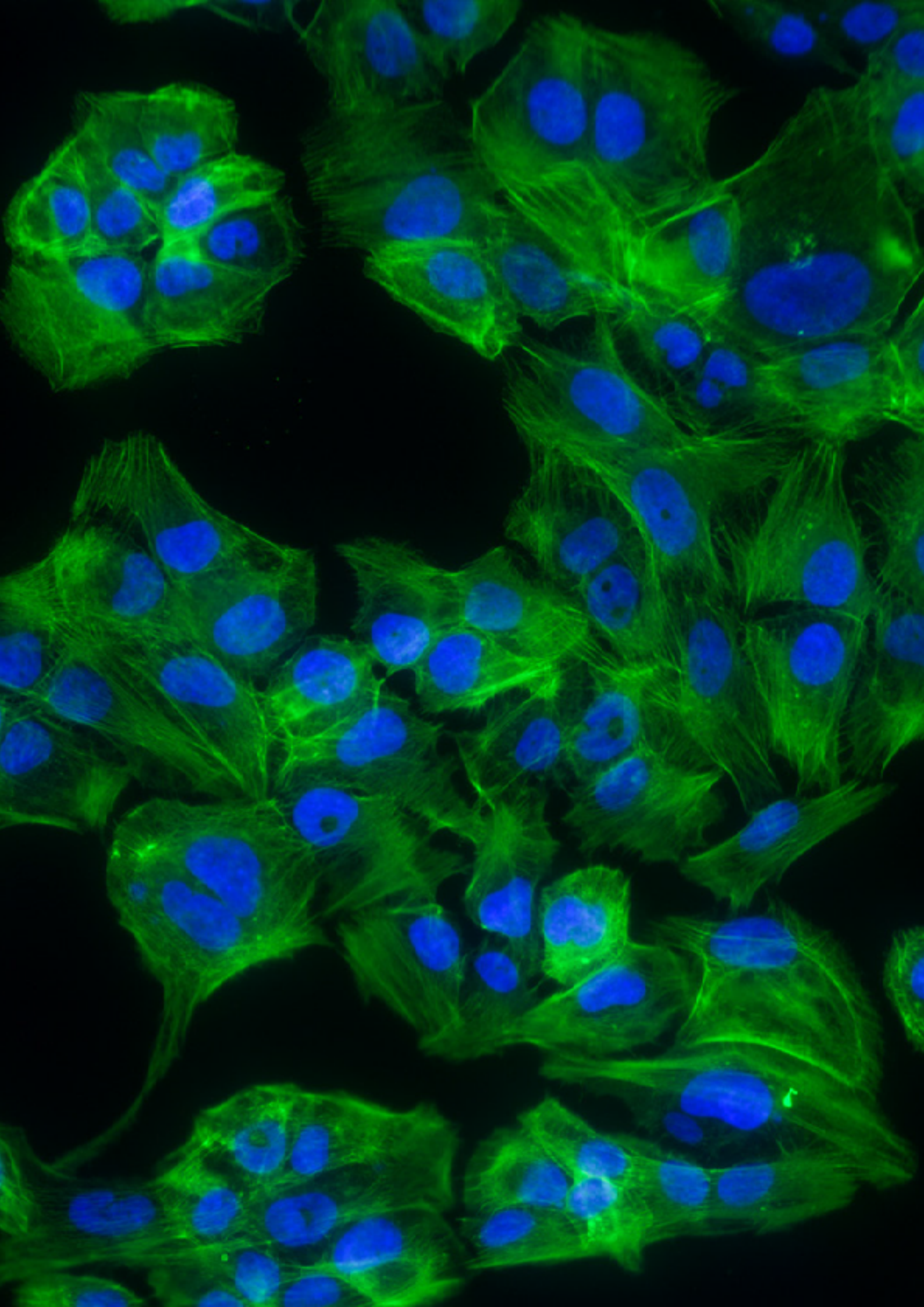

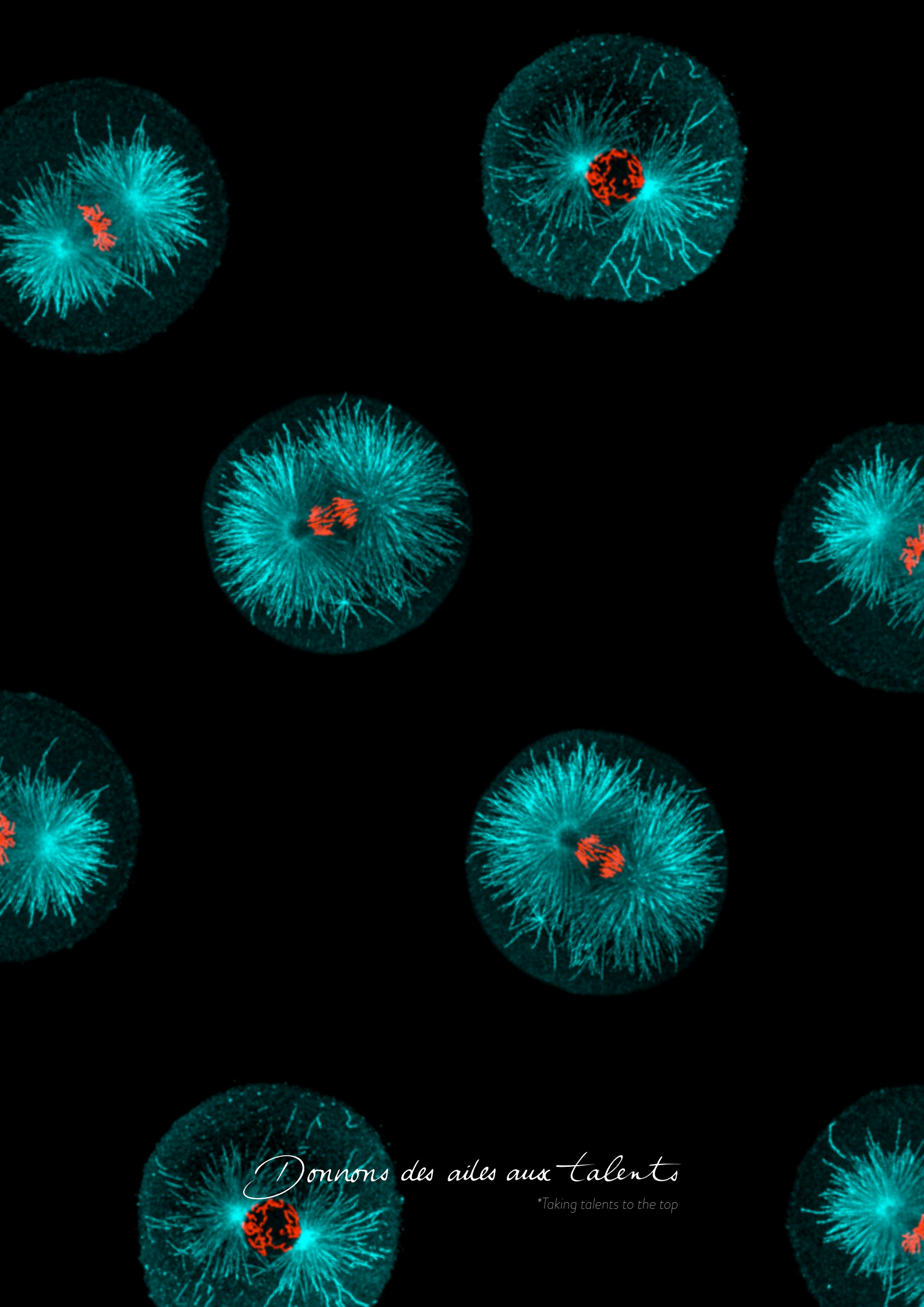

Donnons des ailes aux talents

*Taking talents to the top