As a family-run public-interest foundation since its creation in 1987, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”) aims to “take talents to the top” to contribute to France’s success and influence. To this end, it researches, selects, supports, mentors and champions women and men who are rethinking our future in three fields that make a concrete difference to the common good: life sciences, arts and an inclusive society. With a philanthropic mindset, the Foundation takes action through prizes, donations, personalized support, effective communication and co-creation initiatives.

The Foundation has set the objective of making a lasting impact on the life science research ecosystem to boost the influence of French biomedical research and accelerate the innovation process.

The creation of Impulscience® supports this mission, drawing on the undeniable expertise of the European Research Council (ERC) in identifying and funding European basic research. This initiative aims to reward and support high-level researchers in France and boost the attractiveness of France as a research hub to retain and attract talents.

Impulscience supports high-level, mid-career life science researchers who are established as team leaders and hosted by French public research organizations. These researchers must have been selected during ERC calls for proposals and rated “A” after the second selection phase. Due to the lack of European funds, these candidate researchers will not have received ERC funding despite the quality of their applications.

Every year, Impulscience endowments are awarded to up to seven researchers by the Foundation’s Scientific Committee (hereinafter “the Scientific Committee”). This Committee selects laureates after a detailed examination of applications, followed by interviews of the candidates.
The endowment amounts up to €460,000 annually for five years, or a total of €2.3 million per laureate. This funding is broken down as follows:

- Up to €400,000 annual endowment for the laboratory, including:
  - The researcher’s salary if necessary, depending on the researcher’s status
  - The overall budget for the laboratory’s operations (salaries, equipment and consumables), allocated at the researcher’s discretion
- A gross annual personal allowance for the researcher (€18,000), paid by the host institution
- Management expenses for the researcher’s host institution (the support manager and recipient of the funds), set at a maximum of 10% of the total endowment (up to €42,000 annually) – valid for all institutions in France

This support is individual and can be transferred to another institution by the researcher if the researcher decides to pursue work at another institution (up to the maximum funding remaining available and providing that the new host institution is linked to a French public research organization).

The researcher undertakes to dedicate to the supported project the percentage of working time stipulated in the corresponding ERC call for proposals (50% for Starting grants, 40% for Consolidator grants and 30% for Advanced grants).

The Impulscience endowment may be cumulated with other private or public funds for the same project, if authorized by the sources of funding, with the exception of ERC grants. For ERC calls for proposals, the laureate may submit an application for the same project supported by the Foundation, in line with ERC rules, if the Foundation’s support ends at the latest 2 years after the deadline for the call for proposals, to avoid an overlap in funding.

These rules, available on https://www.fondationbs.org/fr/candidater, set out the prevailing terms and conditions for the 2022 endowment.

**Article II. ELIGIBILITY**

Impulscience is exclusively open to researchers who:

- Present an innovative life science research project
- Work as a team leader or a principal investigator within a research team in a public laboratory in France at the time of applying or at the start of the project at the latest
- Applied and were shortlisted for an ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced grant in 2020 or 2021 (in any field of research: life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, or social sciences and humanities) but did not obtain funding despite the quality of their project (rated “A” at the end of Step 2 of the ERC evaluation)
- Are aged under 50 on January 1, 2022 and presenting their application at least 5 years after the date of obtaining their PhD. This eligibility window may be extended in some cases, upon presentation of evidence of:
  - Maternity leave (18 months per birth) or paternity leave (effectively taken) for all births before or after finishing a PhD
  - Long-term sick leave (>90 days) to recover from an illness or care for a family member (child, parent, spouse or sibling)
National service

For candidates who have both a medical or pharmacy degree (M.D. or PharmD) and a PhD in
science, the date used to calculate the eligibility period is the date on which the first of these
diplomas was awarded. An extension equivalent to the duration of the medical training carried out
after obtaining the first of these diplomas (in medicine/pharmacy or science) may be granted, up to
a maximum of 4 years.

The Foundation’s Scientific Committee will evaluate the quality, innovation, risk taking and impact of the projects, as
well as the abilities, creativity and enthusiasm of the project leaders during their presentations, in line with the spirit of
the Foundation’s actions.

Any researcher who has already been an Impulscience laureate may reapply, as long as the currently supported project
ends by December 31, 2022.

Candidates must submit an online application form, available on the Foundation’s website

Article III. APPLICATION

(a) Completing the application

Once the outcome of the ERC call for proposals is announced, candidates who meet the eligibility criteria mentioned
in Article II of this document may access the Impulscience online form on https://www.fondationbs.org/fr/candidat.
This form will be available starting on April 4, 2022.
Candidates must enter, in English, information on their scientific background and research project as submitted in the
ERC call for proposals. The information may be modified up to the submission deadline (May 30, 2022). The
application must be completed by attaching the following documents, in PDF or JPEG format, to the online form in the
dedicated place:

- These rules, dated and signed
- Notification of the outcome of the ERC call for proposals and the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
  received after the deliberations of the ERC evaluation panels
- All required supporting documents if the candidate is requesting an extension of the eligibility window

Candidates undertake to inform their host institution of their Impulscience application and forward a copy of their
application, along with a signed copy of these rules.

For any questions, please contact us at sciences@fondationbs.org.

(b) Submitting the application

The application, duly completed and accompanied by the abovementioned documents, must be submitted and
validated electronically by May 30, 2022 at 23:59 (Paris time) through the online platform. An acknowledgment of
receipt will be sent to the candidate once the form is validated.
Only complete applications that include the application form and attachments, respect the conditions required by
these rules and are submitted online by the closing date will be considered.
If the application is considered ineligible after verification of its compliance with these rules, a notification of ineligibility will be sent to the candidate. Any false statements will disqualify the application outright.

**Article IV. CONDITIONS FOR EXAMINING APPLICATIONS**

(a) **Examination of the eligibility of applications**

The Scientific Secretariat will examine the applications to verify their eligibility and compliance with the conditions set out in these rules. Complete, eligible applications will then be forwarded to the Scientific Committee, which will shortlist the candidates according to the following criteria:

(b) **Selection criteria for applications:**

In a plenary meeting after candidates’ individual presentations, the Scientific Committee will evaluate each candidate on the following criteria:

- The candidate’s excellence and the fit between the researcher’s expertise, career and project
- The originality, ambition, creativity and risk taking involved in the scientific project
- The feasibility and consistency of the proposed approach
- The project’s impact on the fields of biology and human health (in a high-risk, high-gain spirit)
- The candidate’s enthusiasm, energy and creativity, in line with the Foundation’s mindset (“taking talents to the top”)

The Scientific Committee’s decisions are final and confidential and not subject to any challenges or appeals of any nature by the candidate, as acknowledged by the candidate when submitting an application.

(c) **Candidate presentations**

The shortlisted candidates will present individually to the Scientific Committee in a plenary meeting. The candidate will have thirty (30) minutes to present the project and answer questions from the Scientific Committee. The candidate must be present and may not be accompanied by third parties. An exception may be made for candidates who are working abroad at the time of Scientific Committee’s plenary meeting and are in no way able to present to the Committee in person; in this case, the candidate may propose a presentation by videoconference but may not in any circumstances be represented by a third party.

The date and technical arrangements for the presentations will be communicated to the candidates at the latest 3 weeks in advance.

(d) **Composition and role of the Scientific Committee**

The Scientific Committee, in charge of the Foundation’s operational scientific expertise is composed of eminent French and foreign scientists with scientific and medical expertise covering the main life science fields.

In a plenary meeting, the Scientific Committee will evaluate the applications, attend presentations by the shortlisted candidates and designate the Impulsion Laureates according to the selection criteria described in IV(b).

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1 The list of the Foundation’s Scientific Committee members is available for consultation on [www.fondationpbs.org](http://www.fondationpbs.org)
The Impulscience laureates (hereinafter “the Laureates”) will be designated in a majority vote by the Scientific Committee members, each having one vote in a secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the Scientific Committee casts the deciding vote. Proxy votes are not accepted.

Scientific Committee members that have a conflict of interest must declare this before candidate presentations. They will not participate in the discussions concerning this candidate but will participate in the final vote.

The Scientific Committee is not obliged to designate a Laureate for the 2022 Impulscience awards if the quality of the applications presented is deemed to fall short of its standards.

**Article V. CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING IMPULSCIENCE ENDOWMENTS**

The granting of Impulscience endowments is conditional upon:

- The signature of the Convention by the Laureate and the Laureate’s host institution
- The effective presence of the Laureate at the Foundation’s scientific ceremony in Paris in November 2022

**Article VI. ENDOWMENT**

The endowment allocated to the Laureate will amount to up to two million three hundred thousand euros (€2,300,000).

Upon the Laureate’s signature of the Convention, the Foundation will transfer €460,000 to the Laureate’s host institution, as indicated by the Laureate.

The remainder will be paid in annual installments to the Laureate’s host institution over the following 4 years, according to the terms and conditions set out in the Convention.

The Impulscience endowment constitutes a donation subject to obligations, as defined in the Convention.

**Article VII. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FOUNDATION AND THE LAUREATE**

For all intents and purposes, applicants are reminded that:

- No hierarchical relationship of any kind is established between the Foundation and the Laureate. The Foundation can in no way be considered to be the employer of the Laureate, who can only receive instructions from the host institution, laboratory or university. The Foundation has no claim of any nature to the intellectual or property rights resulting from the Laureate’s work.
- Impulscience has an exclusively philanthropic vocation and does not involve chance or a financial commitment by the Laureate.
Since the Foundation does not intervene in any rights ownership or sharing issues resulting from the research work, it consequently cannot be held responsible for them in any way.

Article VIII. SUSPENSION, CANCELATION AND POSTPONEMENT

The Foundation reserves the right to modify the present rules or suspend, cancel or postpone the organization of Impulscience 2022 if required to by circumstances or reasons beyond its control, without being held responsible and without detriment to or loss of opportunity for the candidates.

However, Impulscience may not be canceled after the plenary meeting to designate Laureates, except in the event that the Scientific Committee fails to designate them.

Article IX. COMMUNICATIONS, AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING AND DATA PROTECTION

(a) Communications

The candidate authorizes the Foundation to follow up on the application. The Laureate authorizes the Foundation to use the Laureate’s image and name. The Laureate agrees to provide any information necessary for the Foundation’s communications.

(b) Automated data processing and data protection

The candidate acknowledges that certain personal data is required for an application, that this data may undergo automated processing and that it will be used by the Foundation exclusively for the selection of the Laureate.

The personal data collected on each candidate during the application process and, if applicable, on each Laureate for the awarding of the Impulscience endowment, is subject to the modified French “Information Technology, Data Files and Civil Liberties” Act dated January 6, 1978 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Pursuant to these provisions, the candidate or Laureate has the right to access, rectify, modify, limit, erase or transfer personal data. The candidate or Laureate also has the right to withdraw consent and oppose the processing of personal data, including the right to oppose personal data being used for commercial purposes.

To exercise these rights, the candidate or Laureate may write to rgpd@fondationbs.org.

Finally, the candidate or Laureate has the right to lodge a complaint with CNIL, the French Data Protection Authority.

The candidate or Laureate may also consult Fondation Bettencourt Schueller’s data protection policy: https://www.fondationbs.org/fr/politique-de-protection-des-donnees.
Article X. CALENDAR

Start of online applications
Deadline for validating the application form
Candidate presentations and Scientific Committee deliberations
Bettencourt Schueller Foundation scientific ceremony

April 4, 2022
May 30, 2022
June 29-30, 2022
November 2022 in Paris
(to be confirmed)

Place of signature:
Date:

Candidate's signature, preceded by “read and approved”