Media release, February 26, 2020

FMI ranks first in success rates for ERC grant applications

The selection of research projects to be funded by the European Research Council (ERC) is highly competitive; therefore, the funding of a project by the ERC is a key indicator for research excellence. In the latest data provided by the ERC covering the years 2015-2018, the Basel-based Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI), achieved a remarkable success rate of 75%, ranking first of 172 institutes.

The European Research Council (ERC) – the first pan-European funding body for frontier research – was set up in 2007. Its mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding. There are five different funding schemes (starting/consolidator/advanced/proof of concept/synergy grant) in three different domains (Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, Social Sciences and Humanities) – all of them being highly competitive. When a scientist is awarded an ERC grant, this is not only an indicator of his or her personal science excellence but also lets the host institute shine.

At the end of 2019, the ERC assessed the success rate of 172 European institutions that applied for ERC funding in calls in 2015-2018 and were hosting at least seven grants as of December 2019. All categories and grants considered, the FMI achieved a remarkable success rate of 75%, ranking first among all 172 institutes.

At the FMI we have received 24 ERC grants in total, with 16 grants ongoing at the moment. We are proud of the exceptional scientists who received them. They make the FMI what it is: one of the best places in Europe to conduct fundamental biomedical research.

Top 10: ERC application success rate, 2015-2018 (based on data from December 2019, provided by the ERC)

- Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI), Basel, Switzerland - 75%
- Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), Vienna, Austria - 58%
- Institute of Science and Technology Austria - 49%
- London Business School, UK - 47%
- ICFO-Institute of Photonics Sciences, Barcelona, Spain - 40%
- Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel - 38%
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Heidelberg, Germany - 37%
- Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal - 36%
- Francis Crick Institute, London, UK - 35%
- Netherlands Cancer Institute - 35%

» Full list: success rate for ERC grant applications by institute 2014-2018
About the FMI

The Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI), based in Basel, Switzerland, is a world-class biomedical research institute dedicated to understanding the molecular mechanisms of health and disease. Its main areas of expertise are neurobiology, quantitative biology and epigenetics. With a staff of about 340, the FMI offers an exceptional training environment for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows from around the world. Founded in 1970 (we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year), the FMI is affiliated with the University of Basel and the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research.

» More about the FMI