

**2022 Call for the
“Grand Prix Scientifique”
of the**

Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation

Every year, the Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation of the *Institut de France* awards a scientific prize based on the recommendations of a jury formed by members of the *Institut de France*. The scientific theme of the award alternates between disciplines of the two divisions (1) of the Academy of Sciences. The 2022's Grand Prix will be awarded to a French or European scientist and his/her team⁽²⁾ who will propose an ambitious research project on:

“Therapeutic Chemistry”

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has shown that the world lacks adequate therapeutics. In addition to vaccines, it is essential to have antiviral drugs, as successfully used for the treatment of AIDS. It is essential to encourage original research in the field of therapeutic chemistry with the aim of designing new drugs to treat patients in the early stages of the disease.

The Del Duca Grand Prize will be awarded to outstanding work in therapeutic chemistry for the treatment of infectious diseases.

The prize is as follows:

- a) **200,000 €** to finance the work of the award-winning group,
- b) **25,000 €** awarded to the principal investigator (PI) of the research group,
- c) **50,000 €** (maximum amount paid upon presentation of supporting documents) for hiring one French or foreign postdoctoral researcher to be selected by the PI, in the two years following the attribution of the award. A report must be sent within two months after the end of the contract. A contract agreement will be established between the laboratory and the Del Duca Foundation to define the conditions of payment.

The applications must be sent on line not later than Tuesday February 15, 2022 before midnight

to the following electronic address:

<http://prix.academie-sciences.fr>

For further informations, please consult the website of the French Academy of Sciences at the following link: <https://bit.ly/36hfh5Z>

Documents to prepare for nomination:

- 1) **A cover letter** signed by the PI,
- 2) **CV of the PI** (2-pages maximum),
- 3) **Succinct CV of all team members**,
- 4) **A description of the past results obtained** in relation with the Award (5-pages maximum),
- 5) **A research proposal** in relation with the topic of the Award (3-5 pages),
- 6) **one or two letters of recommendation** from an international renowned scientist (name and contact of the reviewer should be completed online).

Deadline for submission: **Tuesday February 15, 2022, before midnight.**

Applications will be examined by a jury composed of members of the Academy of Sciences with additional opinions of experts, if needed.

The Grand Prix will be awarded at the Institut de France, under the dome, **on Wednesday June 1st, 2022.**

For questions, please contact:

Academy of sciences

Sèlay DIAKITÉ - Tél: 01 44 41 45 76
selay.diakite@academie-sciences.fr

or

Sandrine MEGRET – Tél. 01 44 41 43 94
sandrine.megret@academie-sciences.fr

Previous Laureates of the Grand Prix of the Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation
--

2006: Dr. Geneviève Almouzni, from the interdisciplinary unit “Nuclear dynamics and genome plasticity – UMR 218” at the CNRS/Institut Curie, and director of “chromatine dynamics” research group for her work on the assembly of genetic material and its dynamics.

2008: Dr. Philippe Janvier, from the laboratory of Paleodiversity, History and Evolution of “Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle” for his work on biodiversity and evolution

2010: Prof. Patrick Aubourg, from Paris-Descartes University and Director of the unit INSERM genetic and biotherapy, for his work on gene therapy for neurodegenerative diseases of the central nervous system.

2012: Prof. Ben L. Feringa, from the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Sciences of the Netherlands for his work on stereochemistry, organic synthesis and asymmetric catalysis.

2014: Dr. Stanislav Dusko Ehrlich and Dr. Joël Doré, from the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) for their work on the microbiota and description of intestinal metagenome.

2016: Dr. Erwan Bezard, from the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) for his work on neurodegenerative diseases, Parkinson's and Lewy body dementia.

And

Dr. Ronald Melki, from the National Center of the scientific research for his work on the structure of proteins responsible for neurodegenerative diseases.

2018: Dr. Fatima Mechta-Grigouriou, from the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), at Institut Curie, for his work leading to major advances in our knowledge of the role of oxidative stress in different forms of cancer and their reactivity to chemotherapy.

2020: Prof. Josselin Garnier, from Ecole Polytechnique for his research on the modeling and study of random phenomena, in particular wave propagation and imaging in complex media, uncertainty management in numerical simulation, and stochastic algorithms.