

**2026 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 2026'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:

“Chemistry of and for the environment”

Understanding the cycles of mineral and organic elements — their regulation among various environmental compartments and their incorporation into living organisms — is fundamental to modeling and anticipating major changes on our planet. In this field, chemical approaches, both experimental and theoretical, enable the analysis and assessment of pressures arising from human activities and the resulting environmental imbalances. At the same time, they contribute to the development of innovative solutions that address the impacts of humans on the environment — and, conversely, of the environment on living systems and human activities.

This prize recognizes a team that has achieved major advances in using the tools and concepts of chemistry to design innovative and sustainable solutions that help preserve the planet while meeting essential human needs.

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.

* An agreement is established between the laboratory and the Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation, in order to define the terms of this payment and its monitoring.

The applications must be sent on line not later than Tuesday January 20, 2026 before midnight

to the following electronic address:

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

⁽¹⁾ 1st division: Mathematics; Physics; Sciences of the Universe; Mechanical and Computer Sciences.

2nd division: Chemistry; Molecular and Cellular Biology, Genomic; Integrative Biology; Human Biology and Medical Sciences.

⁽²⁾ The research team isn't necessarily the administrative team. The team members don't necessarily work in the same laboratory. The role of each member of the team should be clearly defined in the application.

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 January 20, 2026, 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 17th, 2026.**

For questions, please contact:

Academy of sciences

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

2012: “Molecular machines and biological nanomachines”

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: “Microbiome and homeostasis”

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: “Neurodegenerative diseases”

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: “Mechanisms of resistance and adaptation to stress”

Dr. Fatima Mechta-Grigoriou, 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: “Symbiosis”

Gerard Eberl, Professor of Immunology at the Institut Pasteur, director of the "Microenvironment & Immunity" unit.

2022: “Therapeutic Chemistry”

Bruno Canard, Research Director, head of the structural biology team at Luminy (UMR 7257 CNRS-Université d'Aix-Marseille).

2024: “Seeing Living Systems”

Philippe Bousso, Research Director, Head of the Immunology Department, Institut Pasteur, Head of the ‘Immune Response Dynamics’ Unit