




**UNDER THE  
LENS**



Czech Science Foundation (“GACR”)  
Evropská 2589/33b  
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Czech Republic

**[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)**

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## DEAR RESEARCHERS,



The mission of the Czech Science Foundation is to facilitate high-quality basic research. It is basic research that helps unconventional ideas come to life, and the unknown to be explored. The multitude of findings we obtain from basic research helps us to adapt to the fast-changing world.

The Czech Science Foundation's goal is to be a partner for scientists in every stage of their careers. And therefore, each year, we fund hundreds of projects in calls for proposals targeted at a variety of scientists. We have expanded our international cooperation in recent years substantially - it is now easier for scientists to work together on projects with and within international teams.

The goal of this publication is to give you an overview of the Czech Science Foundation's scope of activities, the calls we publish, the process we deploy to evaluate projects, and other related topics, such as ethics in research, or gender issues in research.

I wish you plenty of achievements in your explorations!

prof. RNDr. **Jaroslav Koča**, DrSc.  
President, Czech Science Foundation

The Czech Science Foundation ("GACR") is the only institution in the Czech Republic providing targeted funds to basic research exclusively.

In its calls for proposals, the Czech Science Foundation funds scientific projects carried out by both seasoned scientists and teams, and young researchers in the early stages of their careers. Hundreds of research projects receive funding every year on the basis of multi-stage tenders.

## GOALS



To fund scientific projects in basic research

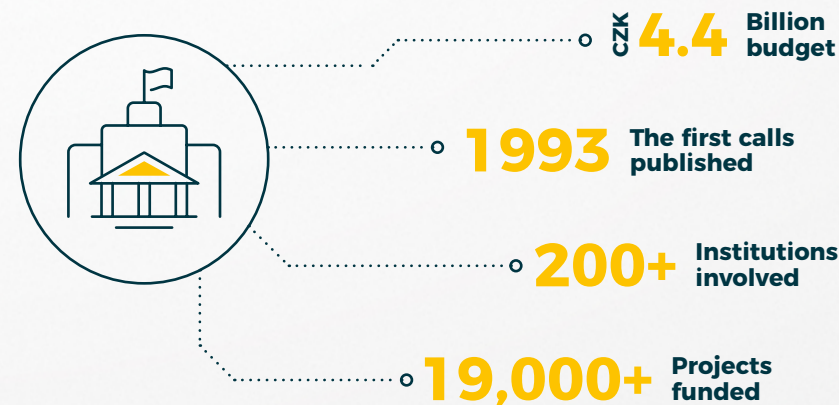


To create suitable and attractive conditions for researchers



To support and expand international scientific cooperation

## THE CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION IN NUMBERS



# TYPES OF GRANTS



## STANDARD PROJECTS

These projects are the cornerstone of funds provided by the Czech Science Foundation, and several hundred receive financing every year.

2-3 years project duration

available to all researchers and their teams

the most sought-after type of grant

**1993** the first call for proposals published



## POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP

The latest group of grants targeted at scientists who completed their doctoral studies recently.

**2021** the first call published

targeted at researchers who graduated with a doctorate no more than 4 years ago

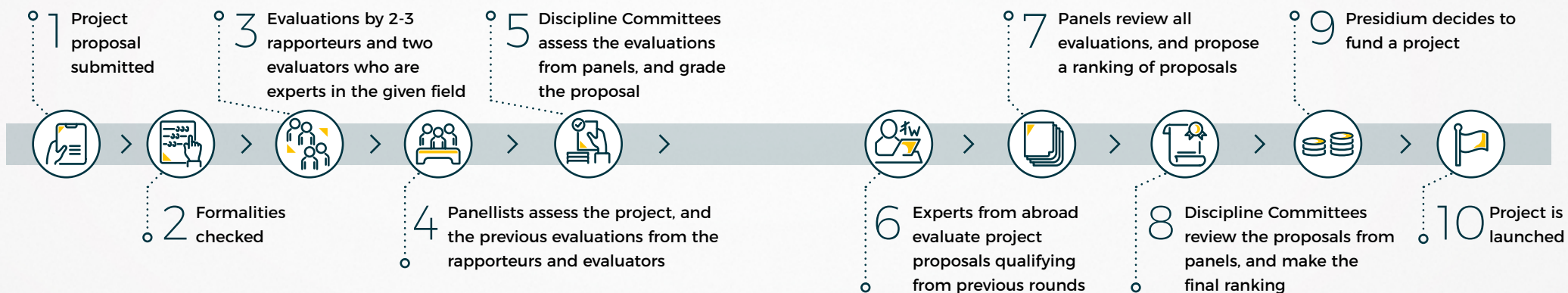


**OUTGOING FELLOWSHIP**  
research fellows spend two years at an institution abroad, and then one year at a Czech institution



**INCOMING FELLOWSHIP**  
research fellows from abroad spend three years at a Czech institution

## SELECTION PROCESS



## ABOUT EVALUATIONS

**5** Discipline Committees made up of chairs and vice-chairs of the panels

**2,500+** Project proposals every year

**39** Panels in fields of science

**400+** Panellists recommended by scientific institutions

“

Not a single project receives funding without going through an international evaluation.

”



# TYPES OF GRANTS



## JUNIOR STAR

Highly selective grants dedicated to excellent scientists in their early careers who already have international experience.

5 year project duration

up to 8 years within the completion of a doctorate

up to **25** million per project

researchers can choose their own scientific topics



## EXPRO

The goal of EXPRO grants is to bring a breakthrough in a given field - they are called high risk/high gain projects.

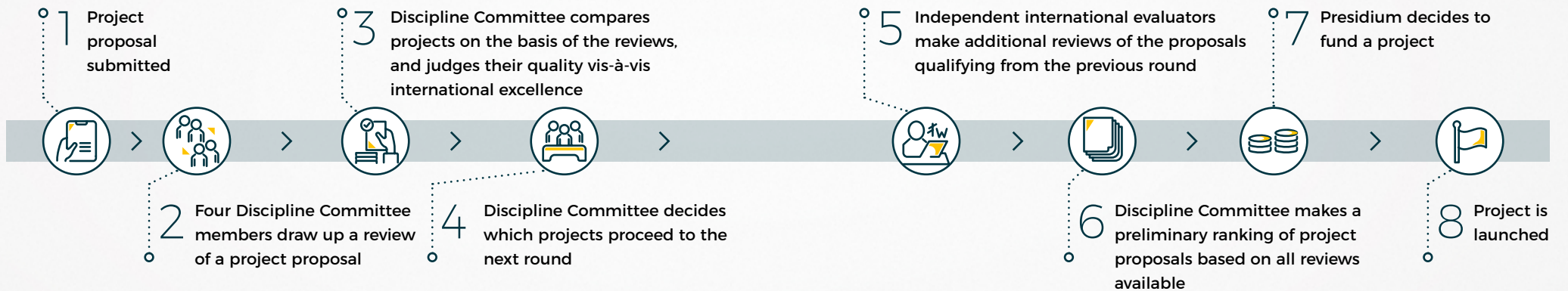
5 year project duration

highly selective, and dedicated to excellent scientists

up to **50** million per project

**2018** the first call published

## SELECTION PROCESS



## ABOUT EVALUATIONS

**8** Discipline Committees made up of international experts only

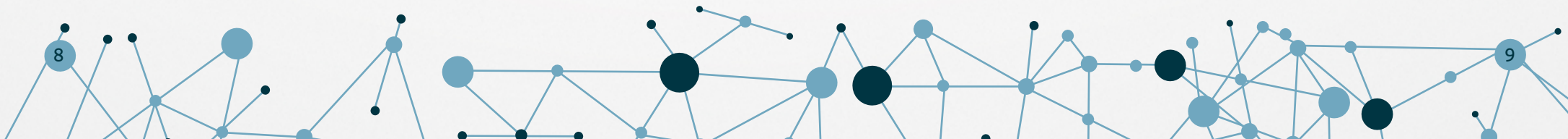


an independent agency recommends the experts who evaluate the projects

“

Ph.D. students are an integral part of most scientific teams. The bulk of the Ph.D. students succeed in defending their dissertations thanks to being part of these projects.

”



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We are expanding opportunities for Czech scientists to carry out joint projects together with researchers from other countries. International cooperation is playing an ever-increasing role within the Czech Science Foundation's budget. We are working on being able to offer scientists even more cross-border opportunities in the foreseeable future.

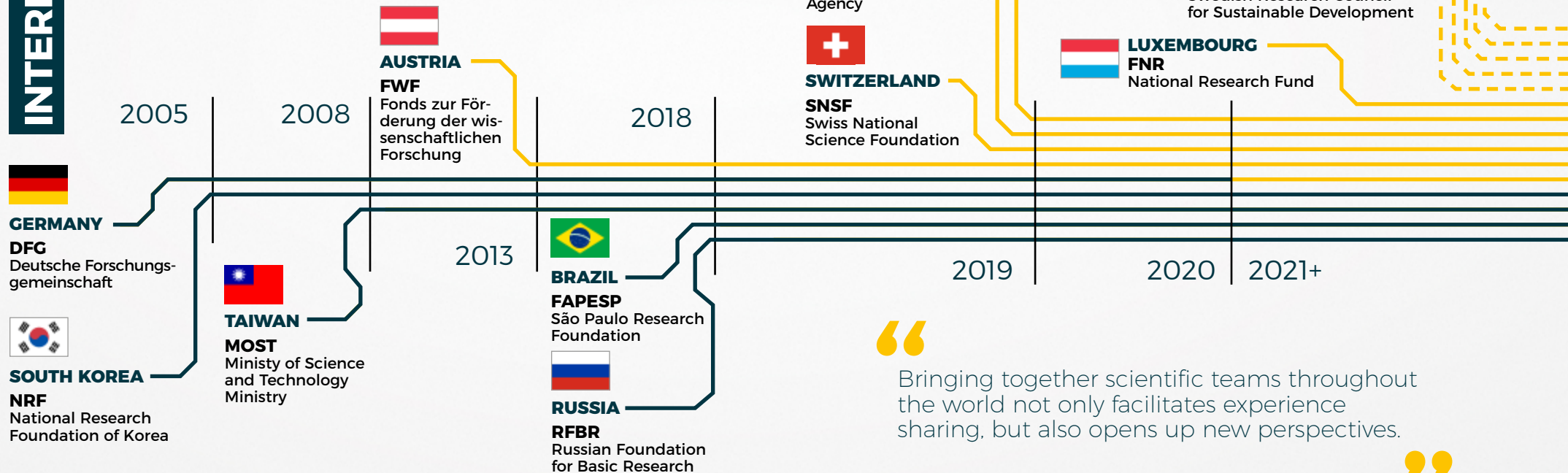


The Weave initiative aims at networking 12 European institutions on Lead Agency basis. As a result, scientific teams from up to three countries will be able to work together. More institutions are likely to join Weave in the future.

## DEVELOPING INTERNATIONALLY

**10** international partnerships

**5+** new partnerships by 2025



### LEGEND:

**Lead Agency cooperation**  
Funding is based on an evaluation and recommendation by one agency only (the Lead Agency).

**Planned Lead Agency cooperation within Weave**  
The expansion will take place by 2025.

**Bilateral Cooperation**  
Funding is based on the evaluations by both agencies, which agree on projects to be funded.



Bringing together scientific teams throughout the world not only facilitates experience sharing, but also opens up new perspectives.



The Award of the President of the Czech Science Foundation is a recognition of outstanding grant projects achievements. This prestigious event draws media attention every year. Researchers often earn other awards honouring the results of their efforts.

## ABOUT THE AWARD

The President's Award winners are selected every year upon recommendations from several hundred scientists involved as evaluators of projects funded by the Czech Science Foundation.

The short list of nominations includes dozens of excellent projects from five areas of basic research:



Technical sciences



Physical sciences



Medical and biological sciences



Social sciences and humanities



Agricultural and biological-environmental sciences

## THE AWARD IN NUMBERS



**75**  
laureates  
to date



**CZK 100,000**  
prize awarded  
to each laureate



**2003**  
award tradition  
started



Twenty per cent of the completed projects are graded as 'excellent' every year. Of those, the best of the best are selected for the President's Award.



## LAUREATES

### 2020

RNDr. Michal Pavelka, Ph.D.  
Judit E. Šponerová, Ph.D.  
Dr. rer. nat. Leoš Shivaya Valášek, DSc.  
Mgr. Aleš Březina, Ph.D.  
RNDr. Terezie Mandáková, Ph.D.

### 2019

doc. Ing. Zdeněk Sofer, Ph.D.  
doc. RNDr. Jiří Bruthans, Ph.D.  
doc. MUDr. Mgr. Marek Mráz, Ph.D.  
PhDr. Václav Štětka, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Robert Černý, Ph.D.

### 2018

doc. Ing. Jiří Houška, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Jakub Švenda, Ph.D.  
doc. RNDr. Aleš Panáček, Ph.D.  
PhDr. Alena Volrábová, Ph.D.  
RNDr. Petr Kopáček, CSc.

### 2017

Mgr. Gabriela Blažková, Ph.D.  
prof. Ing. Jiří Kopáček, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Ivana Orlitová, Ph.D.  
Dr. Ing. Michaela Rumlová  
prof. Ing. Lukáš Sekanina, Ph.D.

### 2016

PhDr. Alena Hadravová, CSc.  
Dr. Michail Kotsyfakis, Ph.D.  
RNDr. Kateřina Kůsová, Ph.D.  
prof. Dr. Ing. Tomáš Vampola

### 2015

prof. PhDr. Jan Klápště, CSc.  
doc. Mgr. Richard Štefl, Ph.D.  
prof. David Storch, Ph.D.  
prof. Ing. Václav Švorčík, DrSc.

### 2014

Mgr. Vítězslav Bryja, Ph.D.  
prof. Ing. Jiří Čejka, DrSc.  
Mgr. Michal Fárník, Ph.D.  
prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.

### 2013

RNDr. Monika Dolejská, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Martina Galetová, Ph.D.  
MUDr. Robert Jech, Ph.D.  
prof. RNDr. Petr Klán, Ph.D.

### 2012

prof. RNDr. Milan Chytrý, Ph.D.  
Ing. Mgr. Martin Lux, Ph.D.  
Olexandr Stupakov, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Libor Barto, Ph.D.

### 2011

doc. Mgr. Radim Filip, Ph.D.  
prof. Ing. Pavel Ripka, CSc.  
RNDr. Bořivoj Vojtěšek, DrSc.  
RNDr. Michael Komárek, Ph.D.

### 2010

Ing. Vít Novák, CSc.  
RNDr. Aleš Stuchlík, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Jan Štochl, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Radan Slavík, Ph.D.

### 2009

doc. Ing. Ladislav Bocák, Ph.D.  
doc. Ing. Jan Macháček, DrSc.  
prof. Ing. Evžen Kočenda, Ph.D.  
Mgr. David Matějčík, Ph.D.

### 2008

RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D.  
RNDr. Bořivoj Vojtěšek, DrSc.  
doc. RNDr. David Vokrouhlický, DrSc.  
Ing. Václav Dvořák, Ph.D.

### 2007

prof. Ing. Jan Flusser, DrSc.  
prof. RNDr. Ivan Raška, DrSc.  
prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.  
doc. Mgr. Radim Filip, Ph.D.

### 2006

doc. Ing. Vladislav Oliva, CSc.  
Mgr. Vlada Filimonenko, Ph.D.  
doc. PhDr. František Čapka, CSc.  
prof. RNDr. Zdeněk Němeček, DrSc.

### 2005

prof. RNDr. Viktor Brabec, DrSc.  
Ing. Josef Fulka, DrSc.  
RNDr. Pavel Svoboda, CSc.  
Mgr. Lenka Řezníková, Ph.D.

### 2004

RNDr. Aleš Kovařík, CSc.  
Ing. Jiří Rais, CSc.  
doc. RNDr. Marian Fabian, DrSc.

### 2003

MUDr. Jan Bureš, DrSc.  
Mgr. Jiří Macháček, Ph.D.  
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Bittnar, DrSc.  
doc. RNDr. František Marec, CSc.

The Czech Science Foundation applies the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in a number of areas.

**ETHICS**

The Czech Science Foundation takes ethical aspects in science and research with all seriousness. Above and beyond statutory requirements, the researchers, evaluators, and employees are committed to comply with the Czech Science Foundation's codes of ethics.



**Code of Ethics for researchers:**

- principles of scientific work
- relationship with colleagues
- publication ethics



**Code of Ethics for evaluators:**

- objectiveness and transparency
- confidentiality
- avoiding conflict of interest



**INSURE**

Interdisciplinary Support of Research Ethics  
Interdisciplinární podpora etiky výzkumu

The Czech Science Foundation is the application sponsor of INSURE, a project carried out at the Masaryk University.

**PROJECT GOALS**

- defining ethical standards in each field of science
- supporting research ethics for research organisations

**OPEN ACCESS**



Open Access in science enhances the quality and reliability of results. The Czech Science Foundation cover the researchers' costs for publishing in Open Access format in the projects funded by the Foundation. The preference for Open Access is also incorporated in Grant Funding Agreements.

**GENDER**

The Czech Science Foundation has long facilitated equal opportunities for women and men to balance scientific work and family.



**Reduced workloads or project intermission**



**Eligibility of childcare costs in projects**



**Human resource development at beneficiary organisations as a factor**



**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

**A guide through motherhood and parenthood in tender documents of the Czech Science Foundation**

An updated document containing an overview of all the relevant measures and adjustments

**VaVal recommendation for grant providers to address research work conditions**

A guidebook of the National Contact Centre for Gender and Science of the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences



The annual reports of the Czech Science Foundation are another source addressing gender issues.



**REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN**

- any communication with the Czech Science Foundation (including the execution of agreements) is possible online
- we have trimmed our forms and other documentation
- amendments to agreements are only necessary if material changes are made




# GOVERNANCE

## PRESIDIUM

-  approves tender announcements
-  awards grants on the basis of expert evaluations
-  coordinates advisory bodies and appoints their members




The five-member Presidium is appointed by the Government of the Czech Republic for a maximum of two four-year terms.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

-  proposes the establishment and focus of Discipline Committees
-  proposes types and focus of grant tenders
-  evaluates the scientific quality of the Czech Science Foundation




The Scientific Advisory Board is a conceptual body. Its 12 members are appointed by the Government. Members can serve a maximum of two four-year terms.

## SUPERVISORY BOARD

-  reviews the allocation of funds
-  handles complaints about evaluations of project proposals or project interim/final reports
-  submits binding opinions to the Presidium

The 10-member Supervisory Board is appointed by the Chamber of Deputies. Members can serve a maximum of two four-year terms.

## OFFICE

-  administers grant project proposals and the database of reviewers
-  drafts the budget
-  manages and organizes interfaces with partner organisations

The Office Director is appointed by the President of the Czech Science Foundation



**Medical and biological sciences**  
prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Koča, DrSc.  
CHAIR



**Social sciences and humanities**  
prof. Ing. Stanislava Hronová, CSc., dr. h. c.  
VICE-CHAIR



**Physical sciences**  
RNDr. Alice Valkárová, DrSc.



**Agricultural and biological-environmental sciences**  
doc. RNDr. Petr Baldrian, Ph.D.



**Technical sciences**  
prof. Ing. Rostislav Drochytka, CSc., MBA, dr. h. c.

prof. Ing. Jaroslav Doležel, DrSc.  
CHAIR

prof. Ing. František Štěpánek, Ph.D.  
VICE-CHAIR

prof. RNDr. Pavel Exner, DrSc.

prof. Ing. Martin Hartl, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Štěpán Jurajda, Ph.D.

doc. Dr. Phil. Rudolf Kučera, Ph.D.

prof. Bengt J. F. Nordén, Dr. mult.  
honFRSC

prof. RNDr. Michal Otyepka, Ph.D.

prof. Jana Roithová, Ph.D.

prof. Avner Shaked, Ph.D.

prof. MUDr. Aleksi Šedo, DrSc.

prof. MUDr. Jiří Zeman, DrSc.

prof. Ing. Stanislav Labík, CSc.  
CHAIR

prof. PhDr. Jana Geršlová, CSc.  
VICE-CHAIR

doc. JUDr. Ing. Zdeněk Dufek, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. František Hrdlička, CSc.

prof. Mgr. Libor Jan, Ph.D.

prof. Ing. Petr Konvalinka, CSc.

prof. Ing. Vladimír Smejkal CSc., LL.M.

prof. PhDr. Hana Vykopalová, CSc.



Only 2.5% of the total budget is allocated to the operation of the Czech Science Foundation. The costs for administering and selecting projects, and the associated activities, are fairly low in comparison to similar agencies abroad – while high quality is still preserved.



The Czech Science Foundation responded to the Government's COVID-19 measures promptly, and has tried its best to accommodate the needs of the scientific community. The Presidium has made periodic approvals and updates of a number of project rules.



## KEY MEASURES



postponements of submission deadlines for project proposals and interim/final reports



more flexibility in workloads



more flexibility in the use of grant funds - telecommunication expenses and cancellation fees are now eligible



permission to postpone project completion

## COVID-19 AND BASIC RESEARCH



Projects addressing COVID-19 are funded within Standard Projects. A call for proposals was made in 2020 jointly with the FWF of Austria, and COVID-19 projects are now being carried out jointly by Czech and Austrian researchers.

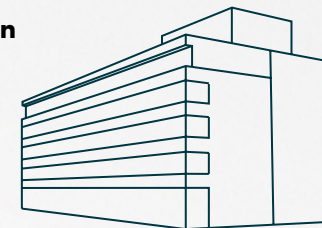


Basic research findings have made it possible to develop a COVID-19 vaccine in a record time.



## WHERE ARE WE?

Czech Science Foundation  
Grantová agentura  
České republiky  
Evropská 2589/33b  
Praha 6 160 00



## WHERE DO YOU FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION

[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)



[facebook.com/GrantovaAgenturaCR](https://facebook.com/GrantovaAgenturaCR)



## NEED ADVICE?

Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Fri 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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+420 227 088 861



[www.GACR.cz](http://www.GACR.cz)