



Part of the relaunch of FUTURA is a new cover design. The cover of each issue will now feature a stylized illustration of molecules, viruses, cells, genes – in short, everything a BIF fellow may be concerned with every day. The cover of this issue shows a double helix, which is also the basis of BIF's new logo as a symbol of the scientific core of our work at BIF.

## FACTS

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## THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR BEHAVIOUR

In order to explain behaviour – be it in humans or animals – researchers are looking from the genome to the connectome. They are trying to understand how genes affect the function of the neurons that underlie complex behaviour such as obtaining food or selecting a mate.

Cutting-edge technology, including optogenetics, is helping in this research. Page 8

## FELLOWS

**PROJECTS** In October 2010, the Board of Trustees of the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds discussed 41 applications for PhD fellowships – selected from the 183 applications originally sent to the secretariat – in Vienna, Austria. The limited funding available meant that a considerable number of excellent applications had to be turned down. In the end, 17 grants were approved and 17 fellowships were taken up. Page 13

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PhD fellow Tongtong Zhao from Cambridge guides you around the city. Page 40

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**FELLOWSHIPS** The Board of Trustees of the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds includes six renowned scientists and, as a permanent guest, a representative of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation). Their expert judgement characterizes the work of the foundation. The trustees meet three times each year to decide on the allocation of PhD fellowships. In October 2010, they discussed 41 applications – selected from the 183 applications sent to the secretariat – in Vienna, Austria. The limited funding available meant that a considerable number of excellent applications had to be turned down. In the end, 17 grants were approved and 17 fellowships were taken up.

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**THE FOUNDATION** The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) is a public foundation – an independent, not-for-profit institution for the exclusive and direct promotion of basic research in biomedicine. The foundation pays particular attention to fostering junior scientists. From the very beginning, it has provided its fellowship holders with more than just monthly bank transfers: seminars, events and personal support have nurtured the development of a worldwide network of current and former fellows.

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