



The cover illustration shows a simplified model of the histone-DNA complex. The accessibility of genes depends on how tightly this complex is packed. If the transcription factors cannot reach the DNA, these genes are silent. Among other things, epigenetics studies how this process is regulated. Read more about this fast-moving discipline in our main story on page 8.

## FACTS

Science News	4
<b>THE HIDDEN SWITCHES OF OUR DESTINY</b>	
The surprising ways in which environmental factors affect our genes.	8
<b>THE RED DRAGON'S PHDS</b>	
China is rapidly gaining on the nations leading the science race.	13

## FELLOWS

### NEW PHD PROJECTS

In November 2013, 17 applications for fellowships were approved and 16 were taken up.	17
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### PHD RESULTS

29 fellowship holders give brief accounts of their results.	34
---	----

### MD FELLOWS 2013

In 2013, BIF granted ten MD fellowships.	50
--	----

## FOUNDATION

### FOUNDATIONS WEATHER THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

How foundations in the US and Germany are coping with the current low interest rates.	54
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### WHO'S WHO AT BIF

Dr Ingrid Ohlert answers the BIF questionnaire.	55
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### NEW TEAM MEMBER

Vera Schlick has joined the BIF team.	55
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### PAPERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Papers by BIF fellows Christoph Engel, David Ferrero and Carsten Linnemann.	56
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A BIF fellow's guide to ... Boston	58
Foundation news	59
Profiles	59
Upcoming events	59

**FELLOWSHIPS** The Board of Trustees of the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds includes six renowned scientists, the speaker of the Board of Managing Directors of the company Boehringer Ingelheim and, as a permanent guest, a representative of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Their expert judgment characterizes the work of our foundation. The trustees meet three times a year to decide on the allocation of fellowships. In November 2013, they met in Split, Croatia, to discuss 47 applications selected from the 142 submissions to the office. In the end, 17 applications were approved and 16 fellowships were taken up.

<b>CAMILLA ENGBLOM</b> The impact of cancer on the bone marrow stem cell niche	18
<b>LEONA ENKE</b> Causal involvement of neocortical interneurons in attention	19
<b>BIANCA GAPP</b> Functional annotation of essential kinases via genetic screens	20
<b>MILAN GEROVAC</b> The mechanism of ABCE1 in ribosome recycling	21
<b>MICHAEL H. HAUER</b> Nucleosome remodellers in chromatin mobility and DNA repair	22
<b>JAN HERUDEK</b> Characterizing the function of promoter upstream transcripts	23
<b>ULRIKE KÜNZEL</b> Biological functions of mammalian iRhom1 and iRhom2	24
<b>ALESSANDRO LA CHIOMA</b> The emergence of direction selectivity in mouse visual cortex	25
<b>SIMON NEYER</b> Structural studies of transcription initiation	26
<b>CHRISTOFFER NORN</b> Computational design of novel protein-binding antibodies	27
<b>RENÉ PLATZER</b> How T cells recognize antigen on antigen presenting cells	28
<b>MARION CLAUDIA SALZER</b> In search of tumour cells primed for metastasis	29
<b>ANNA KATHARINA SCHELLHAUS</b> Identification of GTPases involved in chromatin decondensation	30
<b>MANUEL SCHOTTDORF</b> Building and learning from a brain in a bottle	31
<b>MATTHIAS THEUSER</b> Molecular mechanisms of the spliceosomal RNA helicase Brr2	32
<b>CHRISTOPHER WEYRER</b> Synaptic plasticity and function in the mammalian brain	33

<b>NICOLAS BRANCUCCI</b>		
Insights into the epigenetic regulation of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> virulence genes	35	
<b>CATERINA BRANDMAYR</b>		
Investigation of the role and regulation of modified DNA and RNA nucleosides	36	
<b>ADRIAN CHARBIN</b>		
Condensin aids sister chromatid decatenation by topoisomerase II	36	
<b>VINCENT CROSET</b>		
Evolution and function of the chemosensory ionotropic receptors in <i>Drosophila</i>	37	
<b>ANJA DUNSCH</b>		
Control of the mitotic spindle by dynein light chain 1 (DYNLL1) complexes	37	
<b>STEPHANIE GANAL</b>		
Role of the immunoreceptor NKG2D in iNKT cell-mediated immune responses	38	
<b>CHRISTINE JOHANNA HEIDEKER</b>		
New roles for SUMO-targeted ubiquitin ligases in genome stability	38	
<b>LENA KAROTKI</b>		
The structure and architecture of eisosomes	39	
<b>KERSTIN KINKELIN</b>		
Investigating the structure and function of RNA polymerase II-Bye1 complexes	39	
<b>VERONICA KRENN</b>		
Molecular basis for the recruitment of the checkpoint protein Bub1 to kinetochores	40	
<b>YAN LE</b>		
Characterization of a novel protein involved in oxidative stress resistance	40	
<b>CHRISTIAN LUGINSLAND</b>		
Rhomboid-like proteins and their functions	41	
<b>LINA MALINAUSKAITE</b>		
Insights into the driving-ion release of the neurotransmitter: sodium symporters	41	
<b>DANIEL MEYER</b>		
Correlated plasticity of synaptic structures during synaptic enlargement	42	
<b>YAN NIE</b>		
Recombinant production of human general transcription factor TFIID in insect cells	42	
<b>KIN FAN ON</b>		
Activation of reconstituted pre-replicative complexes <i>in vitro</i>	43	
<b>SYBILLE PFENDER</b>		
Spire1 and Spire2 co-operate with Formin-2 to drive asymmetric mammalian oocyte division	43	
<b>ALLAN-HERMANN POOL</b>		
Neuronal control of feeding in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	44	
<b>JÖRG RENKAWITZ</b>		
Monitoring homology search during DNA double-strand repair <i>in vivo</i>	44	
<b>ALICJA MARIA RITZ</b>		
Regulated membrane trafficking of the prion-like domain-containing protein Prn2p	45	
<b>ANDREA ROTHBALLER</b>		
Building SUN-KASH complexes at the nuclear envelope	45	
<b>STEFAN RÜEGGER</b>		
XRN2 forms a complex with the novel protein PAXT-1	46	
<b>SINEM SAKA KIRLI</b>		
Studying protein organization in cellular membranes by high-resolution microscopy	46	
<b>CLEMENTINE SCHOUTEDEN</b>		
The function of basal ciliary structures in <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	47	
<b>ANNE SCHUEMANN</b>		
Structural plasticity of GABAergic axons	47	
<b>STEFANIE SIEGERT</b>		
Role of lymph node fibroblasts in T cell priming	48	
<b>DANIEL WACKER</b>		
Structural basis of hallucinogen signalling through serotonin and opioid receptors	48	
<b>FLORIAN WILFLING</b>		
Investigation of protein targeting and its impact on lipid droplet expansion	49	
<b>BENJAMIN WILHELM</b>		
Investigation of the stoichiometry biology of the synapse	49	

**THE FOUNDATION** The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) is a public foundation – an independent, non-profit institution for the exclusive and direct promotion of basic research in biomedicine. The foundation pays particular attention to fostering junior scientists. From the start, 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.

## FOUNDATIONS WEATHER THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Low interest rates make it harder for foundations to generate returns on capital ..... 54

## WHO'S WHO AT BIF

Dr Ingrid Ohlert, the DFG's permanent guest on BIF's Board of Trustees, answers the BIF questionnaire ..... 55

## NEW TEAM MEMBER

Vera Schlick has joined the BIF team ..... 55

## PAPERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Papers by Christoph Engel, David Ferrero and Christoph Linnemann ..... 56

## A BIF FELLOW'S GUIDE TO ... BOSTON

BIF fellow Benedikt Bauer presents the capital of Massachusetts ..... 58

## PROFILES

What are they doing now? In this issue: Dr Tina Wenz, Prof. Oliver Daumke, Prof. Ludger Johannes, Dr Amalie Dick ..... 59

## UPCOMING EVENTS

110th International Titisee Conference; meeting of BIF's Board of Trustees in Barcelona, Spain; BIF Christmas party ..... 59

## NEWS

Professor Reinhard Jahn, member of BIF's Board of Trustees, will receive the international Heinrich Wieland Prize ..... 59