



The cover illustration shows a simplified model of RNA interference (RNAi), which degrades RNA before translation, effectively silencing the corresponding gene. Former BIF fellow Katarzyna Kowalik determined the conditions under which RNAi leads to epigenetic silencing, substantially widening the potential of RNAi for research. Read more on page 65.

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**FELLOWSHIPS** The Board of Trustees of the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds includes six renowned scientists, the speaker of the Board of Managing Directors at the company Boehringer Ingelheim, and, as a permanent guest, a representative of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Their expert judgement characterizes the work of our foundation. The trustees meet three times a year to decide on the allocation of fellowships. In March 2015, they met in Mainz, Germany, to discuss 49 applications – selected from the 193 applications originally sent to the secretariat in October, 2014. In the end, 17 applications were approved and all fellowships were taken up. In a separate section of this issue, you will find the project descriptions decided upon at the Board of Trustees' meeting in July.

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**THE FOUNDATION** The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) is a public foundation – an independent, non-profit organization 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.

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