

The cover illustration alludes to the Big Data development that is expected to have a major impact on society in the years to come. The amount of data collected today is growing exponentially and with it come new ways of interpreting and linking datasets. Read more on how Big Data will transform the scientific world on page 12.

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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 November 2014, they met in Barcelona, Spain, to discuss 39 applications – selected from the 208 applications originally sent to the secretariat in July 2014. In the end, 13 applications were approved and all fellowships were taken up.

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RESULTS The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds funds excellent PhD students who are selected as much for their academic record as for their ambitious projects. Here they present a synopsis of their findings, which aim to push the boundaries of our knowledge of the fundamental phenomena of human life.

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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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