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IRP WINNING STEP BY STEP

Since it was **founded** in Geneva **in 1995** by Prof. Alain Rossier and the Zurich-based publicist Ulrich Schellenberg, both paraplegics, the International Foundation for Research in Paraplegia-IRP has continued the mission laid down by its founders, convinced of the need to **boost research in paraplegia** and **provide researchers** with the resources needed to fund their work.

With **more than 220 projects receiving funding for about 32 million Swiss francs**, the IRP is undisputedly one of the key private stakeholders in Swiss philanthropy when it comes to supporting scientific research.

Walk again? Yes, but that's not all...

While the chances of full motor recovery are improving year after year, **other significant progress is equally invaluable thanks to research**

and is delivering practical responses to meet patients' immediate needs; pain alleviation, improved control of sexual and urinary functions, reduced dependence on those around them and significantly improved living conditions.

IRP thus sets out to **fund research projects** that deliver **conclusive results** in all fields and makes a point of **supporting translational research** which enables laboratory results (fundamental research) to be converted into clinical trials.

It is this mindset that has brought IRP together with the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPF), with the latter sharing the funding of clinical projects to the tune of 500,000 Swiss francs a year through a partnership that has been renewed for another 5 years until 2020.

WHAT DOES THE IRP FUND?

- **IRP Research Grants**: funding of up to 150,000 Swiss francs for fundamental and clinical research projects over 2 years.
- **IRP Postdoctoral Fellowship**: funding of up to 80,000 Swiss francs for a young Swiss researcher wanting to study overseas or a young overseas researcher wanting to pursue their academic career in Switzerland.
- **IRP Schellenberg Research Prize**: 100,000 Swiss francs awarded every 2 years to one or more researchers whose work stands out for its quality, new approach and the benefit of the results.
- **IRP Chair Professor Alain Rossier at the University of Geneva**: created in 2007 within the Department of Fundamental Neurosciences. Support of Professors' Anthony Holtmaat and Daniel Huber project.
- **STIMO Project**: Stimulation of the spinal cord in paraplegic patients. Support of Professors' Jocelyne Bloch (CHUV) and Grégoire Courtine (Campus Biotech/EPFL) project.

All IRP funding is contractual and requires researchers to report on their work and the results achieved.



A PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION

IRP has a **permanent Secretariat based in Geneva** and an **office in Zurich**.

The **aim** of this professional structure is two-fold: the administrative management of the foundation, monitoring of the projects and the correct use of the financial resources allocated by IRP and its donors, and to **seek additional funds** in order to create a sustainable platform for the foundation's activities over the long-term.

Several strategies have been identified to reach potential donors:

- **Publication of the IRPNEURONEWS newsletter** twice a year in French and German
-> targets private, individual and corporate donors.
- **Personalised mailshots and contacts**
-> targets foundations and other donor institutions, as well as large individual donors for specific projects
- **Organising charity events:** The Bal du Printemps in Geneva, the Soirée de l'Espoir in Lausanne, the IRP PARAbend in Zurich
-> targets private, individual and corporate donors, enabling a more local and personalised approach to donors.

In order to make sure that all of the funds raised are put back into research projects, the Foundation Board has made the strategic decision to cover the running costs of the permanent Secretariat with a portion of the foundation's capital. In addition, many administrative costs are covered thanks to the support of generous partners.

Philippe Boissonnas, Secretary General
Joëlle Snella, Administrative assistant, Geneva office
Béatrice Brunner, Administrative assistant, Zurich office
Danilo de Simone, Senior development officer

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: THE GUARANTEE OF EXCELLENCE

Comprising **6 international experts** from the field of neurosciences, the IRP's Scientific Committee is an **independent body** that selects, **with complete impartiality**, the research projects that will be funded by IRP.

A simple but rigorous selection process

- Researchers from all around the world are invited by IRP to submit their application for an *IRP Research Grant* or an *IRP Postdoctoral Fellowship* by 31 October via the www.irp.ch website.
- After the applications have been validated (around 50 a year), members of the Scientific Committee allocate the documents received by speciality for initial examination.
- The Scientific Committee meets at the end of January in Zurich, Switzerland, and considers each application before awarding it a score.
- Based on the budget allocated by the IRP Foundation Board, the Scientific Committee selects between 7 and 10 new and outstanding fundamental and clinical research projects to receive funding.

BAL DU PRINTEMPS IN GENEVA

The Bal du Printemps (Spring Ball) brings together each year in spring more than 500 participants and 100 partner and donor companies around the Action Committee and dedicated volunteers.

23rd Bal du Printemps on Saturday, 20 March 2021
at the Hôtel Président Wilson.

Bal du Printemps
POUR LA RECHERCHE EN PARAPLÉGIE

IRP PARABEND IN ZURICH

The IRP Zurich event is organized every 2 years, alternating with the Soirée de l'Espoir in Lausanne.

4th IRP PARAbend in Autumn 2021
at the Dolder Grand, Zürich.

IRP PARAbend

SOIRÉE DE L'ESPOIR IN LAUSANNE

The *Soirée de l'Espoir* is held every even year in Lausanne.

9th Soirée de l'Espoir on Thursday, November 5, 2020
at the Opéra de Lausanne

SOIRÉE DE L'ESPOIR
POUR LA RECHERCHE EN PARAPLÉGIE



International Foundation
for Research in Paraplegia
Fondation internationale
pour la recherche en paraplégie
Internationale Stiftung
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