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The AXA Research Fund supports 38 new academic research programs to advance understanding of risks

- Since 2013, €12M to support 38 new researchers in 15 countries
- New research themes such as flight safety, air pollution and human health, coastal risks, big data and privacy, resilience about climate change
- €114M to support 410 research projects since 2007

The AXA Research Fund, the international scientific philanthropy initiative of the AXA insurance group, yesterday announced the results of its annual campaign: in 2013, the Fund committed EUR 12 million to support 38 research projects in 15 countries, expanding its geographic reach to include mainland China, Greece and the Philippines. These projects encompass major issues and challenges of interest to society at large, such as air pollution and human health, neuroergonomics for flight safety, and climate change impacts and coastal risks. The various grantees start working on their projects with the AXA Research Fund's support in 2014.

Since its launch in 2007, the AXA Research Fund has committed EUR 114 million to finance 410 academic research programs at 227 institutions in 30 countries. Of these programs, 27% focus on environmental risks, 36% on socio-economic risks and 37% on risks related to life and human health.

Grants are awarded following a robust selection process based on academic standards and are overseen by a Scientific Board composed of renowned senior academics and AXA Group representatives. This Scientific Board is supported by an operational team managed by Godefroy Beauvallet, Head of the AXA Research Fund. To date, the Fund has evaluated more than 4100 applications from more than 1000 research institutions in 64 countries.

“The last 12 months at the AXA Research Fund have been quite intense,” noted **Professor Thomas Kirkwood, President of the Scientific Board and Dean of Ageing at Newcastle University.** *“In addition to selecting 38 important projects to support, we developed a mapping of the most dynamic research fields on any risk-related topic in international scientific literature, and put a lot of effort and imagination into identifying ever more relevant and innovative ways to support international research of excellence into risks that are timely priorities for our society.”*

AXA Group Chief Operating Officer Véronique Weill added: *“AXA launched this scientific philanthropy initiative because we are convinced that supporting and sharing the best understanding of risks is critical to better protect people. While we increasingly deal with extreme weather events, health issues related to longevity and behavioral trends, private data management and other emerging issues, we are convinced that improving knowledge of these risks and sharing that knowledge with society at large is more relevant than ever.”*

For the 2013 campaign, the AXA Research Fund implemented new ways of identifying and selecting projects, notably launching Search Committees to identify best-in-category researchers on three key issues facing our societies: ageing in 21st century, the ongoing digital revolution, and dealing with extreme natural hazards.

Thus, the AXA Research Fund granted the first “AXA Awards” to encourage scientific production from scientists with extremely high potential for innovation, and the first “AXA Outlook” to support an innovative approach to engaging civil society with science.

As part of its approach, the AXA Research Fund helps scientists go a step beyond research by easing the sharing of their knowledge with a broader audience in order to actively nurture public debate on risks threatening our society. It finances initiatives allowing innovative, high-potential researchers to enter the public debate, enhance risk awareness and develop collaborative scientific methods to better understand global challenges. It will also continue to publish its [Books of Knowledge](#), which provide a readily accessible and concrete introduction to the work of the researchers it supports, as well as regularly organize [popularization workshops](#) and academic events. Thus a roundtable about flooding involving Senior Academics and AXA Experts to cross views and expertise was organized for the AXA Research Fund annual grant ceremony on April 3rd. The video of this roundtable will be available soon.

The 38 projects selected in 2013 include seven research chairs, three AXA Awards, one “AXA Outlook” and 27 post-doctoral fellowships (full list [here](#)). The new Chairs, Awards and “Outlook”, are:

In socio-economic risks

[Click here to know more about each project](#)

- **AXA Chair in Adversarial Risk Analysis**
Prof. David Rios Insua
 CSIC-ICMAT, Spain
 (EUR 1.1 million)

- **AXA Chair in Neuroergonomics for Flight Safety**
Prof. Frederic Dehais
 Institut Supérieur de l’Aéronautique et de l’Espace (ISAE), France
 (EUR 1 million)



- **AXA Award - "Big Data, Privacy, and Discrimination"**
Prof. Paul Ohm
University of Colorado, USA
(EUR 250,000)



In environmental risks:

- **AXA Chair in Climate Change Impacts and Coastal Risks**
Prof. Roshanka Ranasinghe
UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands
(EUR 1.4 million)
- **AXA Chair in Genome Biology and Evolutionary Genomics**
Dr. Rod Wing
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Philippines
(EUR 500,000)
- **AXA Chair in Volcanology**
Prof. Katharine Cashman
University of Bristol, School of Earth Sciences, UK
(EUR 1.6 million)
- **AXA Award - "Climate and Extreme Weather"**
Prof. Adam Sobel
Columbia University, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, USA
(EUR 250,000)
- **AXA Outlook - "You, Me and Our Resilience: Cross-Cultural Insights on Resilience, Poverty and Climate Change"**
Prof. Katrina Brown
University of Exeter, UK
(EUR 300,000)



In life-related risks:

- **AXA Chair in Air Pollution and Health**
Prof. Sverre Vedal
Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), China
(EUR 700,000)



- **AXA Chair in Risk Predicting in Age-Related Diseases**
Prof. Ben Lehner
Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Spain
(EUR 1 million)

- **AXA Award - “The Role of Lifestyle in Cognitive and everyday Functioning at Older Ages”**
Prof. Miia Kivipelto
Karolinska Institute, Sweden
(EUR 250,000)



ABOUT THE AXA RESEARCH FUND

The AXA Research Fund is the scientific philanthropy initiative of AXA, the global leader in insurance. It aims to further understanding and management of today's and tomorrow's risks. Since its founding in 2007, the Fund has committed EUR 114 million to more than 410 promising research projects at leading academic institutions in 30 countries around the world. The AXA Research Fund undertakes long-term partnerships, focusing on research to contribute to the public debate and help manage or prevent risks to the environment, human life and societies. By 2018, the Fund will have committed €200M to support international research on risks.

For more information: www.axa-research.org

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ABOUT THE AXA GROUP

The AXA Group is a worldwide leader in insurance and asset management, with 157,000 employees serving 102 million clients in 56 countries. In 2013, IFRS revenues amounted to Euro 91.2 billion and IFRS underlying earnings to Euro 4.7 billion. AXA had Euro 1,113 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2013.

The AXA ordinary share is listed on compartment A of Euronext Paris under the ticker symbol CS (ISN FR 0000120628 – Bloomberg: CS FP – Reuters: AXAF.PA). AXA's American Depository Share is also quoted on the OTC QX platform under the ticker symbol AXAHY.

The AXA Group is included in the main international SRI indexes, such as Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and FTSE4GOOD.

It is a founding member of the UN Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) Principles for Sustainable Insurance and a signatory of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

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