

PRESS RELEASE

The Louis-Jeantet Foundation launches an initiative to support outstanding young biomedical researchers in Europe in conjunction with the European Research Council.

The Louis-Jeantet Foundation Board of Trustees has decided to contribute to the valuable stimulus provided for pioneering research in Europe by the Starting Independent Research Grant (StG) programme launched by the European Research Council.

From 2010, the Foundation will annually award the newly created Louis-Jeantet Young Investigator Career Award to highly promising young independent investigators in the biomedical field who have been supported for at least two years by the European Research Council StG programme.

Based in Geneva, the Louis-Jeantet Foundation is dedicated to promoting innovative academic research in Europe in the fields of biology and medicine.

Since 1986, the Foundation has awarded an annual major scientific prize, the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine, to established active investigators of the highest international calibre working in Europe.

So far, the Foundation has awarded about 27 million Euros to 64 Louis-Jeantet prize-winners to pursue specific research projects.

This cooperation with the European Research Council will enable the Foundation to extend its activities by supporting promising investigators at the beginning of their career. In addition to recognizing exceptional performance, the Louis-Jeantet Young Investigator Career Award aims to help the winners move from the initial to the advanced stage of their career. The Award will consist of a personal prize of €50.000 and a research grant of €400.000.

The Foundation hopes this initiative will contribute to encouraging the world's most outstanding biomedical researchers of the next generation to establish themselves and remain in Europe.

Geneva, February 27th, 2007

For additional information, please contact:

Prof. Bernard C. ROSSIER, Secretary, Scientific Committee of the Louis-Jeantet Foundation
Tel: +41 (0)21 692 53 51, secretariat 60 or 50, E-mail: bernard.rossier@unil.ch,