



DIPA rewards and encourages innovative and collaborative scientific research on “Alimentation”

Call for Applications is now open

Palaiseau, 16th May 2022

The Danone Institute International, in collaboration with the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale, launches the **3rd Edition of the Danone International Prize for Alimentation (DIPA)**. **The aim of the award is to reward and encourage innovative and multi-disciplinary scientific research, led by mid-career researchers on the topic of Alimentation.**

The Call for Applications is open worldwide and until October 16th, 2022.

The purpose of the DIPA is to encourage and support cutting edge, innovative and multidisciplinary scientific research in Alimentation, which is the umbrella term for sustainable eating and drinking practices that contribute to the health of individuals, including food choice, purchase, preparation, cooking and meal organization, and their determinants.

The DIPA 100,000 Euros prize intends to raise the profile and accelerate the career of a mid-career researcher, as well as develop knowledge on the topic and inspire junior researchers. The DIPA aims to:

- advance understanding of Alimentation through cutting edge research;
- encourage and inspire pioneering advances that integrate lifestyle, cultural, socio-economic and environmental approaches into research on sustainable healthy diets;
- promote a multi-disciplinary view and boost collaboration between the different disciplines affecting nutrition, from psychology to economics;
- support talented and highly motivated mid-career researchers whose work contributes to scientific excellence in the field of Alimentation.

Who can apply and how?

The DIPA will recognize the work of a single researcher, or a representative of a research team, who is leading a pioneering and collaborative approach on Alimentation and is open to mid-career research scientists working for a non-for-profit organization and from a variety of scientific disciplines within Alimentation, including behavioral science, sociology, anthropology, psychology, environmental sciences, economics, and cultural studies. The application is made by downloading the application file on www.danoneinstitute.org or requesting it by email to dipaprize2023@gmail.com and following the instructions.

Call for Applications

The DIPA Call for Applications is open until 16 October 2022. Applications initially involve submission of a summary of the applicant’s work to be evaluated by the DIPA Selection Committee, followed by the selection of a short list of around ten final applications for final evaluation. The short-listed applicants are asked to prepare a full proposal for consideration by the DIPA Jury, chaired by a leading international expert in the field of Alimentation.



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Previous DIPA Laureates



Dr. Sophie Nicklaus from the **Centre des Sciences du Gout et de l’Alimentation à Dijon, France**, was the **DIPA 1st Edition laureate in 2018** for her outstanding research into children’s healthy eating behavior by **“Nurturing health through pleasure of eating - the right choices from the start”**.

Children’s healthy eating is about much more than just food itself. A whole host of other powerful influences is at work when it comes to driving children’s food preferences. Determining the nature of these driving forces has been the focus of research for Dr. Sophie Nicklaus, the DIPA 1st Edition winner. Central to her research is the understanding that it is not enough simply to help children identify which foods are healthy and encourage them to eat them. We must also take heed of other powerful factors that drive food choices – including social, psychological and cultural factors, collectively known as Alimentation. Among these, one of the most influential is pleasure. Associating healthy foods with pleasure in the early years can positively influence food preferences that are then consistently carried through to adolescence and adult life, Dr Nicklaus’ research has revealed. Getting it right from the start is therefore crucial and points to the need to develop ways to help parents make the most of this window of opportunity.” I applied for the DIPA because I had the feeling that my research work had a sufficiently multidisciplinary dimension to try to address the question of Alimentation, which is so complex. I also thought that DIPA could bring me significant international recognition, which was the case, and strongly influence the rest of my career, on the one hand thanks to the financial support and on the other hand thanks to the prestige of this prize.”

Dr. Jess Haines, Associate Professor at the **University of Guelph, Canada**, awarded the **DIPA 2nd Edition in 2021** for her groundbreaking research into **“Promoting sustainable healthy eating among families, through novel, interdisciplinary research and knowledge mobilization”**.



The overarching goal of Dr. Haines’s research is to identify strategies to promote sustainable healthy eating among families to support the health of the families and of the planet. Ensuring the world’s growing population has adequate nutritious food while also preserving the planet is one of the most pressing challenges facing us today. Data show that current diets across much of the world are of low nutritional quality and include many foods produced in ways that rely on non-renewable inputs and unsustainable practices. In addition, approximately one third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted and, in Canada, nearly 50% of food waste occurs at the household level. “To preserve the health of the planet and our own health, we need to identify effective strategies that support consumers to eat a sustainable healthy diet and reduce food waste”. The program of research developed by Dr. Haines directly addresses this challenge. Her research bridges cutting-edge epidemiologic and direct observational research on the predictors of sustainable healthy eating and household food waste with the development of behavior change interventions and knowledge mobilization tools, focused on supporting families to adopt sustainable healthy eating practices. “Being awarded the 2021 Danone Institute Prize for Alimentation has led to numerous connections and collaborations with nutrition researchers across the world who are focused on sustainable healthy eating”.



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For further details on applications for the DIPA 3rd Edition, please consult the *Rules and Regulations* document at www.danoneinstitute.org or contact the secretarial support by email to dipaprize2023@gmail.com

DIPA: a Prize with a long-lasting history in Nutrition research

Since 2017, the Danone International Prize for Alimentation (DIPA) replaced the long-standing Danone International Prize for Nutrition (DIPN) and is awarded by the Danone Institute International (DII)* in collaboration with the French Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM)*.

The DII and the FRM created the DIPN in 1997 in a joint bid to raise the profile of nutrition sciences. Some 25 years on, nutrition has become firmly established as a vital area of research interest that has a profound impact in the human health. The next step was to explore avenues of research to develop effective sustainable healthy eating strategies - and we believe the most promising routes are those that stretch beyond messages identifying healthy foods. Strategies need to take on board the fact that food does far more than merely fulfil a biological need; it also forms the basis of our identity and social interaction.

The DIPA recognizes and rewards novel and collaborative approaches that consider the diverse influences on people’s food choices and eating habits, including economic, social, psychological, cultural and environmental factors. Unravelling the relationships between these Alimentation factors and how they impact on the planet and human health requires researchers to build bridges between nutrition sciences and other disciplines.

Note:

- *The Danone Institute International (DII) is a not-for-profit association aiming to contribute to the improvement of public health by the progress of scientific research and education in the fields of nutrition and food, as well as by the dissemination of knowledge on links between nutrition, food and health. The association gathers a network of 11 Institutes in the 4 continents and holds a scientific network of correspondent members in Canada, Brazil, and United Kingdom.*
- *The Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM) aims to contribute to the development of pioneering and innovative French medical research, leading to medical advances for all. It is an independent organization, which operates through the generosity of its donors.*



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