



Champalimaud Foundation

James Watson becomes President of the Scientific Committee of the Champalimaud Foundation. Fernando Henrique Cardoso elected to the Board of Trustees.



The Nobel laureate in medicine, James Watson, accepted an invitation from the administration of the Champalimaud Foundation to become the President of the Scientific Committee.

During the final week of March James Watson was in Portugal in order to work with the Foundation in building their strategy and framework for the future. In this capacity he also attended the Foundation's Board of Trustees meeting in Lisbon. During his stay in Portugal, Dr Watson received an audience with the President of the Republic,

Aníbal Cavaco Silva, and the Prime Minister, José Sócrates.

The formal presentation of James Watson took place at the Board of Trustees meeting. The American scientist, known as the “father of DNA” has made himself available to “help the Foundation to be a world centre in the study of cancer and to understand the brain in order to cure mental diseases.”

Henrique Cardoso elected as Trustee

In the March meeting of the Board of Trustees, a new member was elected: Fernando Henrique Cardoso. The election of the former President of Brazil, who is a public figure of great renown in both international politics and academia, represents, in the words of Daniel Proença de Carvalho, President of the Board of Trustees, “a great honour” which will strengthen links with Brazil.



Champalimaud Neuroscience Programme announced

The Champalimaud Foundation and the Gulbenkian Foundation have announced the launch of the “Champalimaud Neuroscience Programme”, a joint initiative in the study of neuroscience that will take place in the Gulbenkian Science Institute.

The proposed activities will be focused on three principal areas:

- The “Champalimaud Neuroscience Programme at the Gulbenkian Science Institute”, dedicated to the investigation of the mechanisms of cerebral function.
- The “Gulbenkian/Champalimaud Doctoral Programme in Neuroscience”, designed to train the next generation of researchers and doctors in this area.
- A regular series of conferences, workshops and post-graduate courses (“Champalimaud Neuroscience Workshops in the Gulbenkian Science Institute”), which will contribute to the international scope of this joint initiative.

The programme will include between six and eight groups and a total of fifty researchers and technicians. The Champalimaud Foundation has already appointed three outstanding young researchers of international reputation, to take lead roles in this project. This marks the beginning of the rapid expansion of the programme towards its complete implementation.

An interest in the development of the scientific investigation of neurosciences is a key element in the strategy of both foundations. This agreement, which takes advantage of the similarities in the statutes of both, substantiates a collaboration which will enhance the scientific potential of each foundation. By situating itself in the Gulbenkian Science Institute, the programme will benefit from technological synergies and scientific advances generated by the multidisciplinary approach utilised in this institute. In addition, the flexible management model employed there will facilitate the implementation and functioning of the Neuroscience Programme. The doctoral programme will also benefit from the progressive and successful post-graduate teaching of the Institute.

The initial development of the Neuroscience Programme will take place over a period of five years, at the end of which it will be reviewed by the two foundations. It is expected that at the end of this period the programme will re-locate to the planned Champalimaud Foundation Research Centre, which will have a strong emphasis on work carried out in neurosciences. More information can be found at:

www.fchampalimaud.org/cf/neuroscience/