Name | Human Frontier Science Programme (HFSP)  
Established | 1989 (on the initiative of Japan)  
Headquarters | International Human Frontier Science Program Organization, Strasbourg, France  
Mandate | The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) is an international program of research support, funding frontier research on the complex mechanisms of living organisms. Research is funded at all levels of biological complexity from biomolecules to the interactions between organisms.  
Key elements of HFSP’s mission are:  
- Support for innovative, cutting edge research at the frontiers of the life sciences  
- Encouragement of high-risk research  
- Promotion of international collaboration in the spirit of science without borders  
- Support for financial and intellectual independence for early career researchers  
Founding document | An agreement was reached in July 1989 at an intergovernmental meeting in Berlin as to the goals and structure of the program, following development of the concept by international committees representing the G7-countries and the European Commission.  
Legal entity | International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSPO) established as a non-profit association in France.  
Membership | The members of the HFSPO, the so-called Management Supporting Parties (MSPs) are the contributing countries and the European Union, which contributes on behalf of the non-G7 EU members. The current MSPs are: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union.  
Governance | The governance bodies of the HFSP are the Board of Trustees, Council of Scientists and the Secretariat. The HFSP is governed by the Board of Trustees (Board) consisting of representatives of the MSPs. The Board is advised by a scientific advisory body, the Council of Scientists (Council) and the Organization is run by the Secretariat in Strasbourg, France. In addition to these statutory bodies, the Program is discussed regularly by an Intergovernmental Conference, which decides on the financial framework of contributions by the members.  
Diseases and technologies covered | Technologies: no restrictions  
Disease areas: no restrictions  
Funding | Since 1990, 932 Research Grants involving 3,500 scientists, 2,661 Long-Term, 82 Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships and 181 Career Development Awards have been awarded. Researchers from more than 70 countries have received funding so far.  
The HFSP is financed and managed by representatives of the Management Supporting Parties (MSPs). In FY 2012, HFSP received US $56 million contributions from the MSPs, with Japan providing about 42% of MSPs’ contributions for FY 2012. For FY 2013 a similar amount is expected.  
Experience in funding and managing R&D | Funding R&D: Research Grants enable scientists from different countries to collaborate on focused, innovative projects that are expected to open new fields of investigation. Postdoctoral fellowships enable the most talented early career scientists, trained in the life sciences or in the physical sciences, to extend their scientific repertoire in laboratories abroad.  
Managing R&D: HFSP does not manage R&D activities per se.  
Criteria to distribute funding publicly available | Selection criteria for all three HFSP programmes are available on the website.  
Minutes of governing body meetings publicly available | Not available on the website.  