

2023 Annual Report



This report is a performance report in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21.

Title page

Ted Turlings, Director of the Centre of Competence in Chemical Ecology at the University of Neuchâtel, receives the 2023 Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize. He was presented with the award by Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin on 30 October 2023.

Publication details

Published by: Marcel Benoist Foundation, © 2024 Concept, compilation and design: Marcel Benoist Foundation Secretariat Pictures: Andi Rihs Language versions: German, French and English



Ladies and Gentlemen

In this year's report, we look back over a very eventful year for the Marcel Benoist Foundation. On 1 January 2023, I eagerly took up my position as Foundation Chair. From the very start I was able to count on the Foundation's solid base and the well-established collaboration with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Latsis Foundation, as well as with our donors, whom I would like to thank for their long-standing support. My predecessor, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, has also continued to stay abreast of developments at the Foundation and to support its activities.

As has become our tradition, the presentation of the 2023 Marcel Benoist and Latsis Swiss Science Prizes took place at a joint ceremony, which was preceded by a workshop for young people attended by the prizewinners. At the same time, we also drew up a vision for the coming years, which we have now begun to implement. The vision focuses on three areas: the selection of candidates, the award ceremony and raising the profile of the Marcel Benoist prize. Our first objective is to take better advantage of the pool of candidates to ensure that we honour the best researchers in Switzerland, or those attached to a Swiss institution, for their work. The second objective is to hold the prize-giving ceremony in the prestigious National Council chamber from 2024 onwards, thus giving the occasion a historic splendour. And the third is to raise the profile of the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize through a number of events during the year, the first of which will take place in 2024 with the 2023 prizewinner, Professor Ted Turlings, who will give a lecture at the University of Neuchâtel.

Similarly, the workshop for young people should be accessible to a wider audience. Last year also saw the launch of the 'Lunch dialogue', an event that brought together the current prize-winner, former prize-winners and representatives from the fields of science and politics.

I am delighted that, with the nomination of Ted Turlings as the 2023 winner of the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist, we were once again able to reward a researcher who has made a significant contribution to solving major societal challenges, in this case through his work on sustainable pest control.

I have no doubt that the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist will continue also in the future to bring outstanding figures in the Swiss research landscape to the fore.

Professor Didier Queloz Foundation Chair

2023 prizewinner: Professor Ted Turlings

Pioneer of chemical ecology

In 2023 Professor Ted Turlings, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, was awarded the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist for his pioneering work in understanding chemical communication between plants and animals. His findings enable new approaches in sustainable pest management practices.



Professor Ted Turlings, 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner, in a greenhouse.

Ted Turlings is one of the world's leading scientists in the field of chemical ecology, which is the study of chemical processes of interactions between different plants and animals (mainly insects). His current research is promising important applications in the development of biological pest control and the promotion of more sustainable agriculture.

In 1985, Ted Turlings – then a doctoral student at the US Department of Agriculture in Gainesville, Florida – examined the following question: How do parasitic wasps (Cotesia marginiventris) manage to reach precisely those corn leaves where the beet armyworm caterpillars (Spodoptera exigua) live and feed, and deposit their eggs in the caterpillars' body in order to reproduce?

In 1990, Ted Turlings had deciphered the mystery: plants can defend themselves against pests by releasing volatile compounds - odorous substances. These odorous substances attract parasitic wasps, which lay their eggs in the caterpillars. The wasp larvae then devour the pest from the inside. The plant thus protects itself by calling an enemy of its enemy to its aid. Ted Turlings was able to demonstrate that it is a substance from the pests' saliva that triggers the production of scent molecules in the plants, not damage to the plant.

The work of Ted Turlings' team ranges from basic research to applied research, including the opening up of new possibilities for reducing pesticide use on crops. The approach of drawing on natural predators for pest control, is known as 'biological control'. This is a crucial element of sustainable farming, considering that harmful insects destroy up to 40 per cent of global yields.

For example, by determining the presence of a plant's defensive odours emitted during a pest infestation, farmers could be alerted before any damage to the crop occurs. This could help farmers use plant protection products in a more targeted way. Ted Turlings' research also focuses on plant varieties that produce a particularly large number of scent compounds attracting beneficial insects or repelling harmful ones. Another approach may be to synthesise the odorous molecules of a plant in order to attract a predator of harmful species before they can damage crops. Ted Turlings' team is working together with agricultural research institutes and non-governmental organisations, such as the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI) to explore new avenues.

Ted Turlings was born in the Netherlands and began his scientific career in the United States, including at the University of Florida and the United States Department of Agriculture. Since 1993, he has been working in Switzerland, first at ETH Zurich and since 1996 at the University of Neuchâtel. For four years he led the National Centre of Competence in Research 'Plant Survival in Natural and Agricultural Ecosystems', which ran from 2001 to 2013 with a budget of CHF 74 million, and has headed the Centre of Competence in Chemical Ecology at the University of Neuchâtel since 2014. He was awarded the Delwart Prize from the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium in 2008, the Silverstein-Simeone Award of the International Society of Chemical Ecology in 2015 and the Distinguished Scientist Award of the Entomological Society of America in 2022. In 2023, he was appointed President of the International Society of Chemical Ecology.

More information about the prizewinner and his research can be found at: www.marcel-benoist.ch/en/laureate-2023.

An interview with Professor Ted Turlings



«This award is a great honour. It acknowledges the work of many years spent alongside extremely competent colleagues and the type of research we are conducting. Today's approach to food production is a major factor in climate change and environmental problems. We have what it takes to do better, and science has an important role to play.»

Ted Turlings, 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner

Ted Turlings, how did you become interested in pests? It's not a particularly appetising subject for most of us.

I am not particularly passionate about pests, but rather about how we can get rid of them in a safe and environment friendly manner. My interest in this topic started when I was a master's student at Leiden University in the Netherlands. I worked in a very inspiring research group that studied the ecology of parasitic wasps. These wasps lay their eggs in or on other insects and the larvae that come out of these eggs devour their victims and eventually kill them. During that time, in the early 80s, scientists became aware that pesticides can have very harmful effects on the environment and on human health and they started to consider alternatives, like parasitic wasps, to control pests. This idea of biological pest control fascinated me and I have been working, directly or indirectly, on the topic ever since.

What was the decisive moment when you understood how the communication between plants and insects works? How did you feel after the breakthrough?

After finishing my master's degree, I moved to the University of Florida to conduct a PhD project under the supervision of the world-renowned chemical ecologist James Tumlinson. It was in his lab that I made the discovery for which I received the Marcel Benoist Prize. For my PhD I studied the host-searching behavior of parasitic wasps and my specific task was to find out what cues the wasps use to find their victims. In this case the victims were caterpillars that were important agricultural pests. The idea was that a better understanding of the behavior of these wasps could help us to develop strategies that could make the wasps more efficient as biological control agents.

Using a series of behavioral assays in flight tunnels I soon found out that the wasps were particularly attracted to the odors of plants damaged by caterpillars. I was in the perfect lab to identify the volatile substances that were responsible for the attractive odor. As we all know, when you damage a leaf you smell an odor, but the amazing thing was that, in response to caterpillar damage, the maize plants that I worked with produced a very specific and unique odor. When I played around with different experiments, I eventually realized that the plants only produced the odor when they perceived a specific compound in the spit of the caterpillars. When the plants detect this compound, they start to produce and release specific volatile substances that attracted the wasps. Further experiments and collaborations with chemists allowed us to ultimately identify the compound in the spit that elicited the plant's reaction. We gave it the name volicitin. This discovery was obviously highly exciting and to this day I find it a thrill to smell the odor of caterpillar-damaged plants. To me it is the smell of success and something that I am convinced we can further exploit for crop protection.

Your discovery should be used primarily in organic farming and reduce the use of pesticides. How exactly will this be done?

It is important to note that another Dutch scientist, Marcel Dicke at Wageningen University, discovered a very similar phenomenon around the same time; he found that when plants are attacked by tiny spider mites, the plants initiate the release of volatiles that are highly attractive to predatory mites, which feed on the plant-eating mites. Indeed, now many years later, we know that the phenomenon of inducible odor emissions can occur in many plant species and can be triggered by various plant-damaging arthropods.

Our respective discoveries prompted many other studies on so-called "herbivore-induced plant volatiles", which revealed that the phenomenon is very common. The response by different plant species and induction by different herbivores and pathogens is sufficiently distinct that we can, based on the odor that plants produce, identify which pest is attacking a specific crop. This is what we are now trying to exploit for a novel strategy in sustainable crop protection. We are testing different odor sensor devices with the ultimate goal to install them on robotic rovers that can drive through agricultural fields and "sniff" plants to inform farmers in real time when and where they have a specific pest problem.

The sniffing robots could also be equipped with sprayers to apply a pesticide, but would do this only when and where it is needed. This would already result in a drastic reduction in the use of pesticides. But realizing that pesticides are not the ideal solution, we are also working on a more environmentally friendly alternative, the application of entomopathogenic nematodes. These tiny insect-killing worms are already being successfully used against root-feeding pests. We are currently developing a novel nematode gel that can also be applied against above-ground pests, possibly also by the odor-sniffing robots.

You are also described as a passionate teacher who wants to pass on his knowledge to future generations. What seems important to you in this context?

The subject areas of chemical ecology and sustainable agricultural are particularly fun to teach. On the one hand, there are many interesting and unexpected examples of chemically mediated interactions that I can integrate in my lectures. Most students are truly fascinated to learn about these interactions. Secondly, and most importantly, there is a very important applied angle to the field of chemical ecology. Pest insects can be trapped or confused with synthetic versions of their pheromones or other attractants. This is the case for agricultural pest, but also for disease vectors like mosquitoes and ticks.

In the context of agriculture, as mentioned, we are working on one of the next steps towards application of chemical ecology. My research group is making considerable progress in our attempts to develop technologies and strategies that will allow us to detect and exploit relevant odors, in a similar way that some insects do. I hope that I can convince students of the potential of these and other sustainable approaches and that some of them will eventually join the efforts to contribute to this very promising field of research. As Barack Obama once pointed out: «This is the last generation that can do something about the destructive effects that we are having on our planet. Applied chemical ecology can make a significant contribution.»

You will soon reach retirement age. What does the future hold for you?

Retirement will certainly not be the end of my research career, in fact, I plan to intensify the research part. I still have research funding until 2027 and, if my colleagues at the University of Neuchâtel allow me, I hope to receive emeritus status and keep an office there. We will continue to work on the sensors in the context of a European project and with my colleague in Neuchâtel, professor Sergio Rasmann, we successfully applied for a grant to further improve our gel-based nematodes formulation for the control of an extremely destructive pest in Africa. Discussions to continue research collaborations at universities in the USA and China are also nicely progressing.

I wish to be active for another five years, which should be enough to bring some of the described ideas to full practice. In addition, I have this ambition, perhaps a bit silly and naïve, that with these specific international collaborations, our research can help to ease the tensions that currently exist between several competing countries. I hope to help reduce the chances of conflict and actually convince these countries to work together to solve some of our most urgent global problems. The incredible honor of receiving the prestigious Marcel Benoist Prize should facilitate these efforts and I envision to be taken more seriously. The Prize provides me with a

podium that allows me to promote science-based solutions for sustainable agriculture and to discuss these with all stakeholders, ranging from fellow researchers, practitioners in agriculture and industry as well as politicians. Our common goal should be the development of effective and safe technologies and policies that ensure food security for all of humanity with minimal negative impacts on the environment.

Note: The interview was conducted in writing by the Foundation Secretary.

Contact

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Further information

www.unine.ch/farce/home/membres/ted-turlings.html

Foundation activities in 2023

Nobel laureate Didier Queloz has chaired the Foundation Board since the beginning of 2023. The Foundation's activities focused on awarding the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist. The award ceremony was once again held with the Latsis Foundation. Young researchers had the opportunity to exchange ideas with the prizewinners at a workshop held beforehand.

New Foundation chair

Professor Didier Queloz, Nobel Prize winner and Head of the Centre for Origin and Prevalence of Life (COPL) at ETH Zurich and Professor of Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, has held the office of Chair of the Foundation since 1 January 2023. He succeeded Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin. In addition, Dr Martine Clozel succeeded Professor Joël Mesot as Vice Chair

Selection of the prizewinner and award ceremony

The selection of the prizewinner was organised by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The research community in Switzerland was invited to submit nominations in the field of life sciences (biology and medicine) in an open procedure held at the beginning of 2023. An international panel of experts proposed Professor Ted Turlings from the University of Neuchâtel as the 2023 prizewinner from a total of 24 eligible candidates. The prizewinner was confirmed by the Board of Trustees at its plenary meeting on 28 August 2023. The prizewinner was publicly announced on 7 September 2023. Professor Turlings was chosen for his pioneering contributions to the understanding of chemical communication between animals and plants and the resulting opportunities for reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture. The winner of the 2023 Swiss Science Prize Latsis, Professor Lesya Shchutska from EPFL, was announced at the same time. That day, sponsors of the Marcel Benoist Foundation were invited by Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin to a lunch with Mr Turlings and Ms Shchutska as well as representatives of the two foundations at the Bernerhof.

The award ceremony for the Swiss Science Prizes Marcel Benoist and Latsis took place on 30 October 2023 at the Town Hall of Bern. It brought together around 180 people from science, civil society, business and politics. The opening speech by Mr Parmelin and short speeches by the two foundation chairs were followed by portrait videos on the prizewinners and a laudation in their honour, the signing of the Marcel Benoist Foundation Golden Book and the awarding of the prizes. The event concluded with a round table discussion between the prizewinners and moderator Olivier Dessibourg. The event was musically accompanied by the duo Santilli & Tibolla. The guests continued their conversation with the laureates about their research over an aperitif.

Workshop for young people and lunch dialogue

The event once again brought together three generations of researchers: the established scientist Mr Turlings, the younger researcher Ms Shchutska and young researchers who had already taken part in an afternoon workshop, which was organised by the 'Schweizer Jugend forscht' and 'Wissenschafts-Olympiade' foundations as well as the 'Reatch' association. The workshop enabled the young researchers to ask questions and gain insight into the scientific fields and careers of the two researchers. For the first time, a 'Lunch Dialogue' was also held, which brought the two scientists together with politicians and provided an opportunity to discuss various aspects of research funding.

Members of the Board of Trustees

The new Chair, Professor Didier Queloz, and the new Vice Chair, Dr Martine Clozel, took office on 1 January 2023. They succeed Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and Professor Joël Mesot respectively.

Professor Martin Baumann, representative of the University of Lucerne, announced his resignation at the end of 2022. Professor Wendelin Werner, representative of ETH Zurich, also stepped down from his post with effect from 31 March 2023. In addition, Dr Catherine Robert, representative of the French Ambassador to Switzerland, left her position in Switzerland. The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the departing members of the Board of Trustees for their many years of outstanding commitment.

On 24 January 2023, the Federal Council appointed Professor Martina Caroni as successor to Professor Martin Baumann with effect from 1 February 2023, and on 30 March 2023, Professor Lars-Erik Cederman as successor to Professor Wendelin Werner with effect from 1 April 2023. The seat of the French Ambassador to Switzerland has been filled again as of 1 January 2024. The Ambassador appointed Professor Philippe Sansonetti for this position.

On 22 November 2023, the elections for the full renewal of the governing bodies of the Confederation for the 2024-2027 term of office took place. The members of the Board of Trustees Professor Christian Leumann, Vice Chair and representative of the University of Bern, Professor Dominique Arlettaz, representative of the University of Lausanne and member of the Investment Committee, and Professor Federica Sallusto, representative of the Università della Svizzera italiana, did not stand for re-election. They were succeeded by Professor Virginia Richter, Professor François Bussy and Professor Silke Gillessen Sommer as of 1 January 2024. The other members of the Board of Trustees were re-elected for the upcoming term of office.

With the departure of Professor Christian Leumann and Professor Dominique Arlettaz, the positions of Vice Chair and member of the Investment Committee had to be filled. At its meeting on 28 August 2023, the Board of Trustees elected Professor Kilian Stoffel, representing the University of Neuchâtel, as the new Vice Chair, and Professor Martina Caroni, representing the University of Lucerne, as a new member of the Investment Committee with effect from 1 January 2024.

Impressions from the 2023 award ceremony



Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin congratulates Professor Ted Turlings, the 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner.



Professor Yves Flückiger, Chair of the Latsis Foundation, awards Professor Lesya Shchutska with the 2023 Latsis prize.



Moderator of the 2023 award ceremony Olivier Dessibourg speaks with the 2023 Latsis prizewinner Professor Lesya Shchutska and the 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner Professor Ted Turlings.



The duo Santilli & Tibolla performing at the award ceremony.

Impressions from the 2023 award ceremony



Professor Ted Turlings, the 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner, explains his research.



Ted Turlings entry in the Marcel Benoist Foundation's Golden Book.



Young researchers who took part in the workshop with the prizewinners speak with other guests.



Professor Matthias Egger, President of the National Research Council of the SNSF, the 2023 Marcel Benoist prizewinner Professor Ted Turlings, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, the 2023 Latsis prizewinner Professor Lesya Shchutska, Professor Yves Flückiger, Chair of the Latsis Foundation Board of Trustees, Professor Didier Queloz, Chair of the Marcel Benoist Board of Trustees (f.l.t.r.).

Many thanks!

More than 100 years ago, Marcel Benoist laid the cornerstone of the Marcel Benoist Foundation. Since 2017, new donations have helped to secure the future of the Swiss science prize and significantly increase the Foundation's assets.

The donors of the Marcel Benoist Foundation are united in the Patronage Committee and Friends of the Foundation.

The members of the Patronage Committee act as ambassadors for the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist, helping to increase its visibility and raise public awareness about the importance of top-level research for Switzerland. They also encourage further partners to commit to supporting the prize.

The solid basis upon which the Foundation now rests is thanks not only to its donors but also to the valuable support of the former federal councillor, Johann N. Schneider-Ammann. The Foundation is delighted that Mr Schneider-Amman will continue to promote the objectives of the Marcel Benoist Foundation as honorary chairman of the Foundation.

The Friends of the Foundation include further sponsors of the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist, reflecting the broader support for the award, which is of such importance to research in Switzerland.

Patronage Committee and Friends: Donors

Christoph Ammann Ulrich Andreas Ammann Daniel Gutenberg Martin Haefner Prof. Ruurd Heerema Babette Herbert André Hoffmann Walter Inäbnit Dr Max Rössler Dr Stephan Schmidheiny Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, former federal councillor Katharina Schneider-Ammann Dr Ernst Thomke Dr Hansjörg Wyss

Accenture Foundation Zurich Airport AG KIBAG Holding AG Perspectives Foundation (SwissLife) QIAGEN N.V., Peer Schatz, in memoriam Gottfried Schatz, 1992 Benoist prizewinner Schindler Group Vontobel Foundation

We would like to thank all our donors for their valuable support. Our thanks also go to those who do not wish to be named here.

Further information on the Patronage Committee and Friends can be found at: <u>www.marcel-benoist.ch</u> > Foundation > Patronage Committee and Friends.

The Marcel Benoist Foundation

Foundation purpose

The Marcel Benoist Foundation was established on 19 November 1920. By accepting Marcel Benoist's legacy, the Confederation undertook to respect the founder's wish – to promote scientific research by awarding an annual prize to the Swiss or Switzerland-based scholar who has made the most useful scientific invention, discovery or study, and one that is of particular relevance to human life. The prize is awarded in different disciplines on a rotating basis.

Board of Trustees (to the end of 2023)

Prof. Didier Queloz Chair of the Board of Trustees

Prof. Christian Leumann Representative of the University of Bern, Vice Chair

Dr Martine Clozel Representative of the world of economics, Vice Chair

Prof. Brigitte Galliot Representative of the University of Geneva, assessor

Prof. Dominique Arlettaz Representative of the University of Lausanne

Prof. Martina Caroni Representative of the University of Lucerne

Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman Representative of ETH Zurich

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Prof. Federica Sallusto Representative of the Università della Svizzera italiana

Prof. Kilian Stoffel Representative of the University of Neuchâtel

Prof. Michaël Unser Representative of EPF Lausanne

N. N. Representative of the French Ambassador to Switzerland

With the exception of the Representative of the French Ambassador to Switzerland, the trustees are appointed by the Federal Council. Any interests of individual members are publicly listed (federal extra-parliamentary commissions).

Foundation Committee

Prof. Didier Queloz, Chair Prof. Christian Leumann Dr Martine Clozel Prof. Brigitte Galliot

Investment Committee

Prof. Beatrix Eugster, Chair Prof. Dominique Arlettaz Prof. Katharina Fromm

Foundation Secretariat

The Foundation Secretariat is part of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI. The Foundation Secretary is a SERI employee. Dr Aurélia Robert-Tissot, Foundation Secretary

Finance Secretariat

Since November 2017, the Marcel Benoist Foundation has outsourced the management of its finances and its annual financial statement, which is drawn up in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21. Von Graffenried AG Treuhand, Bern

Patrick Rüttimann, Swiss certified accountant, member of the management Team

Auditor

unico thun ag, Thun

Oversight

Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Bern

Bank details

Donations in Swiss francs: PostFinance account IBAN CH73 0900 0000 8903 2730 0

Annual financial statement

BALANCE SHEET as of 31 DEZEMBER	2023	2022
ASSETS	CHF	CHF
PostFinance AG, current account	104′174.63	121'170.78
Zürcher Kantonalbank, asset management		
account	141′168.71	83'391.96
Cash and cash equivalents	245'343.34	204'562.74
Federal Tax Administration, witholding tax	25'670.20	23'750.88
Other short-term receivables	25'670.20	23'750.88
CURRENT ASSETS	271'013.54	228'313.62
Securities	20'354'979.50	18'875'913.95
Financial investments	20'354'979.50	18'875'913.95
	· ·	
FIXED ASSETS	20'354'979.50	18'875'913.95
TOTAL ASSETS	20'625'993.04	19'104'227.57

LIABILITIES	CHF	CHF
Deferred income	25'792.50	60'884.55
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES	25'792.50	60'884.55
Restricted funds	242'000.00	385'000.00
FUND EQUITY	242'000.00	385'000.00
Unrestricted funds	20'358'200.54	18'658'343.02
ORGANISATION EQUITY	20'358'200.54	18'658'343.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20'625'993.04	19'104'227.57

OPERATING STATEMENT	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
Unrestricted donations	0.00	250'000.00
Restricted donations	0.00	10'000.00
Total donations	0.00	260'000.00
Prize money	-250'000.00	-250'000.00
Award ceremony	-85'690.05	-49'019.29
Youth workshop	-1′859.00	-5'415.20
Other activities	-4'008.00	0.00
Project-related expenses	-341'557.05	-304'434.49
Expenses Board of Trustees	-16.95	0.00
Finance secretariat	-23′575.60	-22'800.00
Auditors	-56.40	-7'292.50
Oversight	-2'850.00	-5'200.00
Other administrative expenses	-4'633.60	-20'632.70
Administrative expenses	-31'132.55	-55'925.20
Operating result	-372'689.60	-100'359.69
Price gain on securities	2'000'778.87	-3'731'269.13
Asset management fees	-50'816.45	-51'357.05
Other portfolio-related costs	-6'354.30	-6'085.05
Investment controlling/consulting costs	-14'001.00	-10'770.00
Bank fees	-60.00	-136.92
Financial result	1'929'547.12	-3'799'618.15
Result before change in fund equity	1'556'857.52	-3'899'977.84

OPERATING STATEMENT	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
Result before change in fund equity	1'556'857.52	-3'899'977.84
(carried over)		
Allocations to restricted funds	0.00	-10'000.00
Withdrawals from restricted funds	143'000.00	143'000.00
Change in fund equity	143'000.00	133'000.00
Annual result (before allocations to e.g.		
withdrawals from organisation capital)	1'699'857.52	-3'766'977.84

The consolidated statement of accounts was drawn up in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards and audited by unico thun ag.

Governance and working methods

The Marcel Benoist Foundation for the promotion of scientific research, based in Bern, is exempt from federal and cantonal taxes due to its non-profit status.

The Board of Trustees selects the award winners, defines the Foundation's strategy and priorities, and ensures its mission is implemented. It establishes the Foundation's statutes. The members of the Board of Trustees work on an honorary basis.

The members of the Board of Trustees, with the exception of the Representative of the French Ambassador to Switzerland, are appointed by the Federal Council.

Asset management is governed by the Foundation's investment regulations. The financial assets are invested in the medium to long term by an investment committee with a view to achieving security and a sustainable return.

The accounting records and financial statements are audited by unico thun ag. The Foundation is supervised by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations.

Further information on governance and working methods can be found at: <u>www.marcel-benoist.ch</u> > Foundation > Create Excellence.

Contact

Marcel Benoist Foundation Foundation Secretariat c/o State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI info@marcel-benoist.ch Tel. +41 58 484 49 41

www.marcel-benoist.ch

We look forward to hearing from you.