

RSB
STIFTUNG

RENÉ & SUSANNE
BRAGINSKY
STIFTUNG
ZÜRICH

REPORT 2019

RESEARCH AS A NATURAL RESOURCE

Switzerland is among the countries with the fewest natural resources worldwide. We owe our wealth neither to oil wells nor to gold or silver mines. The decisive factor in our nation's ascent to one of the wealthiest countries proved to be investments in education, science and research. And this continues to be the case. The government expends an impressive double-digit billion amount for such investments every year. In addition, private individuals and firms also provide large sums to promote science and research. Likewise, our family Foundation has focused on these kinds of investments for decades.

In 2011, our donation to ETH Zurich enabled the establishment of a new Chair in "translational neuromodelling", to which renowned researcher Klaas Enno Stephan was appointed. The Chair is jointly managed by the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, and it is a division of the Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBT). Its corresponding research lab has been in operation since July 2013. Professor Stephan develops and vali-

dates mathematical models to discover mechanisms that lead to psychiatric and psychosomatic diseases and to provide individual treatment predictions for targeted therapies. To this end, there is a close collaboration in an interdisciplinary research group (consisting of engineers, physicists, computer scientists, biologists, psychologists and clinicians) at the IBT.

A year ago, we decided to extend this support for another five years. Our Foundation thus allows Professor Stephan and his team to intensify their research of the complex challenges posed by psychiatric and psychosomatic diseases. There has been a strong increase in these diseases in the past decades. A targeted (especially drug-based) treatment, as available in other diseases such as oncology, is still largely missing. As non-professionals, we obviously cannot predict what kinds of results the research we are supporting will yield and whether these will translate into better treatments for patients. However, we can already assert that our

Foundation's support provides a tangible contribution in an indisputably important area of research. Our funding thus has a meaningful impact, which makes our family very happy.

In addition, we have a long-standing partnership with the renowned Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, which – along with ETH Zurich – is among the leading universities worldwide. At this Institute, we are regularly involved in innovative projects and thereby play a part in ensuring that ideas and hopes turn into concrete projects with results that positively affect the lives of many people. I must admit that it is this aspect of our work that is most exciting to me. I greatly enjoy my interactions with researchers and university leaders. Thus, I look forward to further exchanges with Professor Stephan and his team, but also with experts at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

My warmest thanks to all who, along with us, support these research activities!

René Braginsky

President of the Foundation Board



David and René Braginsky, along with Professor Klaas Enno Stephan

Photo credit: Hannes Heinzer

PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018

Our Foundation has had a busy year. In 2018, the Foundation Board held three meetings to review the many requests submitted during the course of the year. The Board also took care of statutory business (annual financial statements, annual report, audit report, votes).

In total, the Board granted more than CHF 3.8 million (previous year: CHF 3.7 million) for specific projects. The amount was distributed across the Foundation's three main areas of focus:

We provided the area of "Social Affairs" with funds of CHF 510 000. With this amount, we were able to support more than 30 social projects in Switzerland and Israel.

The area of "Education and Science" received CHF 2 190 000. ETH Zurich was once again the main beneficiary of this support. In the fall of 2011, we decided to enable the establishment of a new Chair in the field of

medical technology at ETH Zurich, for which we would provide funds of CHF 10 million in total. In 2018, our Foundation resolved to extend this support for another five years until the end of 2022. In addition, we also made major contributions to support academic research at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and projects at the University of Amsterdam.

"Other" activities accounted for CHF 1 140 000, including our ongoing collaboration with Keren Hayesod. This Israeli foundation has undertaken successful hands-on education and integration programs with Jewish immigrants for many years. We also supported the Lucerne Festival, the Schauspielhaus Zurich, the Swiss-Israeli Association and other organizations with considerable amounts.

The Foundation Board is also tasked with measuring the success of its charitable contributions. We therefore regularly assessed both the extent and impact of our

work (effectiveness) and the economical use of funds (efficiency). We also devoted considerable attention to various financial issues, including a regular review and – if necessary – adjustment of our investment policies. In addition, we also monitored the activities of our administrative office.

Due to the challenging developments in nearly all investment categories, our Foundation recorded a slightly negative financial result in 2018. As of 31 December 2018, our capital amounted to CHF 46 million. We apply Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards, developed specifically for non-profit organisations, to our annual financial statements.

Our Foundation will maintain the current level of donations, i.e. between CHF 2.5 million and CHF 4.5 million a year, even if this means diminishing the Foundations' assets over the long term.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported us in our work in 2018. Special thanks are due to the Foundation Board members for their work and to our Managing Director, Eduard M. Rosenstein, who manages our Foundation with tremendous commitment and remarkable expertise.

Susanne Braginsky

Member of the Foundation Board



Photo credit: Hannes Heinzer

In 2018, ETH Zurich recognized our Foundations' long-time support. In the photo (from left to right): Prof. Felix Gutzwiller, David and René Braginsky, Eric Stupp, Prof. Beatrice Beck Schimmer (Vice President Medicine at the University of Zurich), Prof. Lino Guzzella (President of ETH Zurich until the end of 2018).

FACTS AND GOALS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation was founded in early 1986 in Zurich and celebrated its 30th anniversary at the end of 2015. Operating on an exclusively non-profit basis, our Foundation supports and promotes projects and institutions where public sector services are insufficient or simply non-existent. Our contributions seek to empower people to support themselves and we prefer to work alongside established organisations; we only provide individual donations in a few exceptional cases. Our Foundation's geographic focus is on Switzerland (with an emphasis on the Zurich region) and Israel. We assist both Jewish and non Jewish initiatives and institutions.

GOALS

Our Foundation deliberately has a very broad range of charitable aims:

- To care for the elderly, handicapped, infirm or needy
- To supervise and promote the training of children and young people
- To support healthcare establishments
- To encourage leisure activities for children and young people

- To support religious institutions
- To promote social, scientific and cultural projects

These objectives enable us to set priorities in social affairs and healthcare as well as in promoting culture and science.

FINANCIALS

In keeping with the growth of our organisation's capital over the last few decades, we are in a position to make contributions in the range of CHF 2.5 million and CHF 4.5 million each year.

	2018	2017
	CHF	CHF
Contributions	3 800 000	3 700 000
Capital	46 000 000	52 000 000

FOUNDATION BOARD

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Dr. h. c. René Braginsky

Businessman, Honorary Councilor of the ETH
Zurich, President

Susanne Braginsky

Vice-president

David Braginsky

Lawyer and investor

Prof. em. Dr. med. Felix Gutzwiller

Specialist in preventative medicine and Former
Member of the Council of States

Dr. h. c. Eric Stupp

Attorney, partner at Bär & Karrer

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