

**RSB**  
STIFTUNG

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RENÉ & SUSANNE  
**BRAGINSKY**  
STIFTUNG  
ZÜRICH

**REPORT 2020**

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## SOLIDARITY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

The coronavirus pandemic currently has a stranglehold on us. As I am writing these lines, the number of people worldwide who have tested positive for the virus has long passed the one million mark. The corona virus will likely result in a hundred thousand deaths, if not more. It is already evident that this pandemic will dominate our life in the coming months in a way that was inconceivable just a short while ago.

The consequences of this pandemic will unquestionably impact our foundation's activities not just this year, but for the foreseeable future. During this difficult time, solidarity is needed – in many areas, including those in which we are already active. Let me be more specific: The weakest members of society are usually the hardest hit during disasters. I am afraid this will also prove true during the current pandemic. On the one hand, Switzerland and Israel – the two countries where our foundation is active – boast very good healthcare systems compared to international standards and robust social safety nets.

On the other hand, the scope of the coronavirus pandemic will place great demands on other government and private social institutions for the foreseeable future. It is already apparent that governments alone will not be able to bear the burden; they will need the help of civil society. As a result, this year our Foundation will strive to support the kinds of social projects and institutions that are desperately needed right now.

The dramatic current situation will also affect education, science and research. On the one hand, the public sector is saddled by massive relief funds necessary to bolster health care systems and the economy and to compensate unemployment and short-term work. This will likely lead to sharpened priorities in the coming years. Based on experience, the adjusted focus might come at the expense of investments in education and science. On the other hand, there is a considerable risk that the significant disturbances that the coronavirus has caused everyday life at schools and universities will continue to have

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negative consequences for some time to come. Thus, additional efforts will be required in this area as well.

Our Foundation has supported the Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBT) at the ETH Zurich and University of Zurich since 2011. We will continue to support this Institute financially. In addition, in the past months, a scientific cooperation between ETH Zurich and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel was re-initiated with the help of our Foundation. I am very pleased by this cooperation since our Foundation has been working with both of these world-renowned universities on a varied number of projects for many years.

During the past few weeks, another area has come to an almost complete standstill: Cultural life. We intend to continue our financial support in this area as well. It is particularly the "large houses" that will need support from private donors in order to overcome the corona shock within a reasonable timeframe.

We will readily employ our means to offer support during these difficult times and thereby express our heartfelt solidarity.



*René Braginsky*  
*President of the Foundation Board*

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## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019

2019 proved to be a busy year for our Foundation. Our administrative office demonstrated a great commitment in reviewing the many requests submitted to our Foundation in the course of the year. The Foundation Board held two meetings to decide on the proposals prepared by the administrative office. In addition, the Board also took care of statutory business (annual financial statements, annual report, audit report, voting).

In total, the Board granted more than CHF 3.3 million (previous year: CHF 3.8 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 440 000. With this amount, we were able to support several larger and smaller social projects in Switzerland and Israel.

The area of "Education and Science" received CHF 1 640 000. We backed the planned joint research funding program between the Weizmann Institute of Science and the ETH Zurich with more than CHF one million. Once again, a significant amount went to the Chair in the field of medical technology at ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich. Our Foundation has sponsored this Chair since 2011. In addition, we also made contributions to support academic research at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and projects at the National Library of Israel.

"Other" activities accounted for CHF 1 260 000. Among other things, we continued our cooperation with Keren Hajessod. This Israeli foundation has undertaken successful hands-on education and integration programs with Jewish immigrants for many years. We also supported the Opernhaus Zurich, the Lucerne Festival, the Schauspielhaus Zurich and other organizations.

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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. We also monitored the activities of our administrative office.

Given the positive developments of financial markets, our Foundation recorded a considerable financial gain in 2019. As of 31 December 2019, our capital amounted to CHF 50 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 Foundation's assets over the long term.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members of our Foundation Board and especially to our Managing Director, Eduard M. Rosenstein, who expertly manages our Foundation with diligence and tremendous commitment.

*Susanne Braginsky, Member of the Foundation Board*

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# FACTS AND GOALS

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation was founded in Zurich in 1986. Operating on an exclusively non-profit basis, our Foundation supports and promotes projects and institutions where public sector services are insufficient or non-existent.

Our contributions seek to empower people to help themselves. We prefer to work alongside established organizations; individual donations are only granted in exceptional cases.

Our Foundation's geographic focus is on Switzerland (with an emphasis on the Zurich region) and on Israel. We assist both Jewish and non-Jewish initiatives and institutions.

## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

For more than 20 years, our foundation has supported the scientific activities of ETH Zurich and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel with significant donations.

**ETH** zürich



מכון ויצמן למדע  
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

GOALS

Our Foundation deliberately pursues a broad range of charitable goals:

- To care for the elderly, handicapped, infirm or needy
- To supervise and promote the training of children and young adults
- To support healthcare institutions
- To foster leisure activities for children and young adults
- To support religious institutions
- To promote social, scientific and cultural projects

These objectives enable us to focus on the areas of social affairs and healthcare as well as the promotion of culture and science. In the area of education, we work closely with the non-profit limited company "Haus der jüdischen Jugend AG", which is wholly owned by the Braginsky family and primarily supports the Jewish primary and secondary school NOAM in Zurich.

FINANCIALS

In keeping with the growth of our organisation’s capital over the past few decades, we are in a position to make donations in the range of CHF 2.5 million and CHF 4.5 million every year.

	2019	2018
	CHF	CHF
Contributions	3 300 000	3 800 000
Capital	50 000 000	46 000 000

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# FOUNDATION BOARD

## FOUNDATION BOARD

**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

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

**René und Susanne Braginsky-Stiftung**

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## MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## AUDITOR

**MOORE STEPHENS EXPERT (ZURICH) AG**  
Glattbrugg / Zurich

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