

Call: Lelio Orci Award 2026

We are opening the call for nominations for the **Lelio Orci Award 2026**, one of the most prestigious prizes in the Life Sciences in Switzerland.

Awarded by the Lelio Orci Fund, hosted by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva and administered by Life Sciences Switzerland (LS²), the annual Lelio Orci Award aims to celebrate a **scientist with an outstanding performance in fundamental cellular biology** and who has led their **work independently**. The selection of the laureate is **independent of their nationality and age – both young, promising researchers and mature scientists are eligible**. The nominee must have conducted a significant proportion of their work at a Swiss research institution, thus contributing to the advancement of Swiss Life Sciences. The originality and impact of the work are determined by:

- **Rigorous, high-quality publications** (publication in a high-impact-factor journal is NOT a criterion)
- **Original and novel contributions** to the field
- **Independence** of work and ideas
- **Importance of work for future development** in the field of research

Nominations – Please enter your nominations [HERE](#). You will have to provide: the **ORCID ID** of the nominee, **a brief biosketch** (max 1000 char.), **a justification for nomination** (e.g., novel contributions and impact on their field), **a short description of major achievements** (max 1500 char.), and **a list of 3-5 most important publications** (max 1500 char.). The application has to be completed all at once, so please prepare this information beforehand.

The deadline to nominate is August 09, 2026.

Jury - The Jury selects the laureate and proposes him/her to the Lelio Orci Fund Committee. The Jury is constituted by LS² and includes: the past-president, vice-president, and president of LS²; Pierre Cosson, professor at the Geneva Faculty of Medicine, personally appointed member of the Lelio Orci Fund Committee; one additional delegate of the Geneva Faculty of Medicine; and at least 3 representatives from other Swiss Academic and Research Institutions.

List of the previous laureates:

2025 - Prof. Pierre Gönczy (EPFL)
2024 – Prof. Anne Spang (Biozentrum, University of Basel)
2023 - Prof. Wanda Kukulski (IBMM, University of Bern)
2022 - Prof. Susan M. Gasser (ISREC Foundation)
2021 - Markus Rüegg (Biozentrum – University of Basel)

2020 - Jean Gruenberg (University of Geneva)
2019 - Silvia Arber (Basel University and FMI)
2018 - Jean-Claude Martinou (University of Geneva)
2017 - Michael Hall (University of Basel)
2016 - Markus Aebi (ETHZ)
2015 - Gisou van der Goot (EPFL)

For any questions, please contact info@ls2.ch or visit our [website](#).

We are looking forward to your nomination!