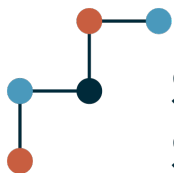
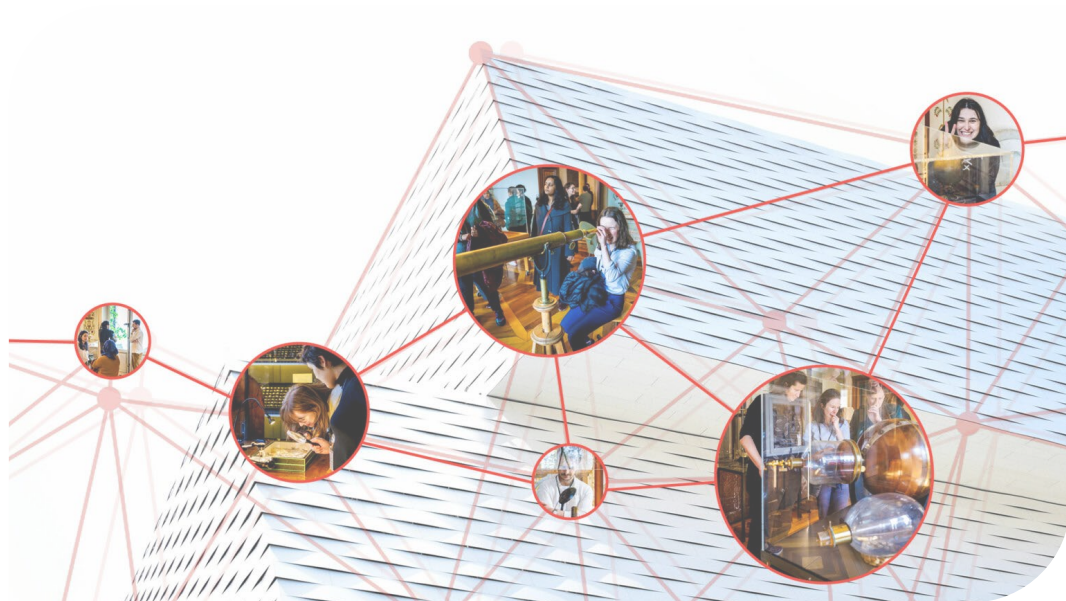


Opportunities for Researchers in Switzerland

CIFAR-SNSF Joint Webinar
October 20, 2025



**Swiss National
Science Foundation**

CIFAR

Introductions



Flurina Kuhn
Scientific Officer
SNSF



Azin Van Moorsel Manager,
Global Research Partnerships
CIFAR



Leah Soroko, Senior Director, Research &
Head, Global Research Partnerships
CIFAR



Elisabeth Schenker
Scientific Officer
SNSF



Rachel Parker, Senior Director, Research
& Head Next Generation Initiatives
CIFAR

CIFAR: WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) is a globally influential research organization proudly based in Canada. We mobilize the world's most brilliant people across disciplines and at all career stages to advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems, together. We are supported by the governments of Canada, Alberta and Québec, as well as Canadian and international foundations, individuals, corporations and partner organizations.

CIFAR: Our Unique Model

Unlike traditional research agencies that fund research projects and labs, CIFAR builds long term global networks of researchers who want to push boundaries and take risks.

Our global community of ~ 500 researchers has transformed the world around us — from launching a revolution in artificial intelligence, to changing how we understand the critical early years of human life.

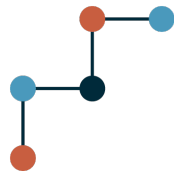


Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

- SNSF funds excellent research at universities – from physics to medicine to sociology since 1952.
- Core task: Evaluation of research proposals
- 960 million francs for project proposals and 189 million for Horizon Europe transitional measures awarded in 2024

5954
ongoing SNSF
projects

22,224
researchers in
projects



**Swiss National
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Tasks of the SNSF

1. Finance
scientific research

2. Promote
scientific careers

3. Coordination
with international
research
environment

4. Forward
thinking in
strategic research
questions

5. Strengthen the
impact of
research and
explain its value



SNSF-CIFAR Partnership

The Partnership, launched in Fall 2023, aims to strengthen ties and foster new collaborations between researchers in Switzerland and CIFAR's research networks.

The Partnership supports:

1. Interdisciplinary and International Networking
2. High-Risk/High-Reward Research Projects
3. Early Career Researcher Networking and Training



Fundamental Research and Impact

CIFAR



■ 2014, 2020

Accelerated Decarbonization

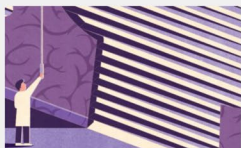
How can we learn from nature to harvest energy from the sun?



■ 2019

Boundaries, Membership & Belonging

Is it possible to have a world without "us" and "them"?



■ 2014, 2020

Brain, Mind & Consciousness

What are the origins and mechanisms of consciousness?



■ 2003, 2007, 2012, 2019

Child & Brain Development

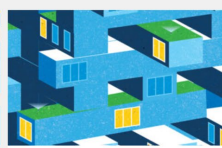
How do childhood experiences affect lifelong health?



■ 2019

Innovation, Equity & The Future of Prosperity

How can innovation be beneficial to all?



■ 2023

Humanity's Urban Future

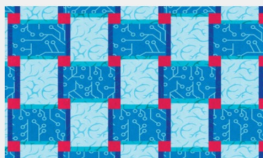
What makes a good city of the future?



■ 2014, 2020

Humans & the Microbiome

How do microbes that live in and on us affect our health, development and even behaviour?



■ 2004, 2008, 2014, 2019

Learning in Machines & Brains

How do we understand intelligence and build intelligent machines?



■ 2019

Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration

How do we understand the life, groundwater and environment deep below the surface of a planet?



■ 2019

Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities

What might we uncover in an unknown biosphere?



■ 2023

Future Flourishing

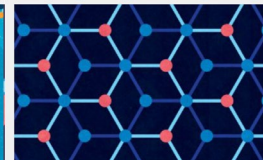
What does it mean to live (well) without human exceptionalism?



■ 2023

CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human

Is it possible to create a multiscale map of the human body?



■ 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2019

Quantum Materials

How could quantum materials transform our society?

CIFAR Engagement with Swiss Researchers

- **CIFAR Program Meetings** held in Switzerland and elsewhere (by invitation). *2026-27 meetings in Switzerland: **Earth 4D; Humans & the Microbiome; and Fungal Kingdom** programs*
- **SNSF-CIFAR Catalyst Grants** for high-risk/high reward research projects
- **Joint CIFAR-SNSF Special Topic Workshops**



Additional questions regarding CIFAR activities please contact:
partnerships@cifar.ca

SNSF-CIFAR Special Topic Workshops

Past Examples include:

- **Workshop on the Rights of Microbes**

March 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland

This workshop brought together experts in microbiology, law, anthropology, and environmental policy to explore the potential for non-anthropocentric approaches to microbes in international law.

- **Rare Diseases Workshop**

May 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland

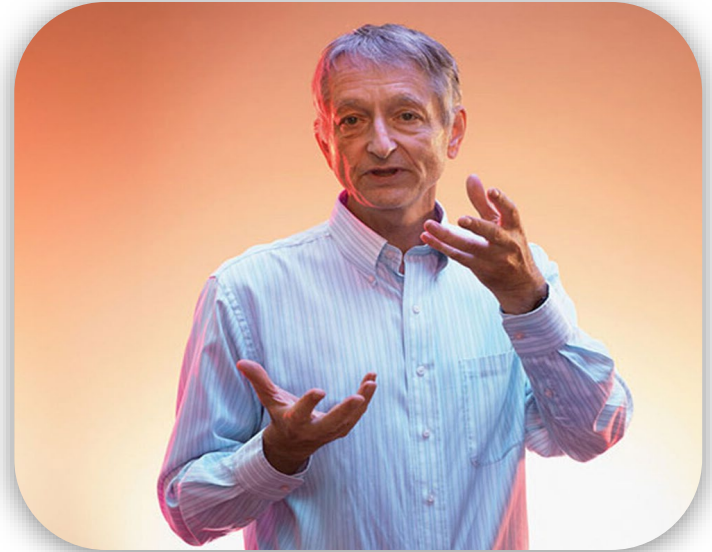
This workshop brought together experts from genomics and epidemiology, with disease-specific researchers and clinicians, to explore rare genetic diseases a unique lens to understanding human biology.



Exploring Challenges on the Horizon

CIFAR is intensifying and formalizing our ability to select and build research programs and other initiatives.

- Upcoming Announcement: Results of **Future of Food** Call for Discovery Workshops
- CIFAR partnership with **GESDA** (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator) to identify new topics on the Horizon.



Opportunities: Early Career Researchers in Switzerland

- **CIFAR Global Scholars**
- **Radical Interdisciplinarity Forum**
- **CIFAR Student Schools**



CIFAR Global Scholars Program

This competitive Program develops highly talented early-career researchers into influential research leaders.

The program has three core components:

1. Participating in a CIFAR Research Program
2. Strengthening leadership & communication skills
3. Increasing impact within and outside of academia

CIFAR Global Scholars receive:

- \$100k CAD in unrestricted research support over 2 yrs.
- opportunities to apply for CIFAR seed funds
- membership in the extended community of Global Scholars
- training in essential areas of research leadership, including trainee mentorship, communication and science advocacy.



CIFAR Global Scholars Program

The Programs recruiting this year include:

1. Child & Brain Development
2. CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human
3. Future Flourishing
4. Humanity's Urban Future
5. Learning in Machines & Brains
6. Quantum Materials

Application deadline: November 5, 2025

cifar.ca/global-scholars

For any inquiries please contact: global.scholars@cifar.ca



Radical Interdisciplinarity Forum

- Engage in collaborative, interdisciplinary and blue-sky brainstorming sessions;
- Network with other early-career and established researchers; and
- Form new collaborations and apply for seed funding following the meeting.



Applicants must be within 10 years of receiving their PhD and hold a postdoctoral or faculty position in Canada or Switzerland. *Participants outside these jurisdictions may also apply if they meet the career-stage criteria and have participated in a CIFAR program.*



connect across disciplines, and
imagine new futures.



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Current Call: 2026 Radical Interdisciplinarity Forum

Arctic Horizons

The Forum will be held in **Geneva**, from **Feb. 10 -11, 2026** alongside an Expert Discovery Panel meeting. Topic areas will include:

- Indigenous Sovereignty & Governance
- Environmental Impact
- Food Security
- Arctic Governance
- Extractive Industries
- Technology (e.g. AI, remote sensing)



Application deadline: November 12, 2025

<https://cifar.ca/next-generation/radical-interdisciplinarity-arctic-horizons/>

Future Opportunities - CIFAR School

Deep Learning +
Reinforcement Learning

SUMMER SCHOOL



dlrl.ca

Dates for 2026 *tbc*

Subscribe to the DLRL
newsletter for updates:
dlrl.ca/subscribe/

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Future Opportunities - CIFAR School



CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human Summer School

School to be held May 2026 in Vancouver, Canada

Applications Open in November

Future Opportunities - CIFAR School

CIFAR Neuroscience of Consciousness Winter School



Next School: December 2026

Applications Open Spring 2026

Made possible with
grant support from:



CIFAR

Highlights: CIFAR Engagement with Swiss Researchers

Highlights:

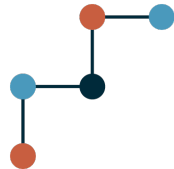
- In 2024-25, 71 researchers and trainees from 19 different Swiss research institutions participated in CIFAR events.
- 11 CIFAR meetings/events have been held in Switzerland since fall 2023.
- 15 SNSF-CIFAR Catalyst Fund Grants have been awarded since fall 2023.



Keep up-to-date on Upcoming Opportunities

Sign up to our newsletters and follow us on social media.

CIFAR



**Swiss National
Science Foundation**



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Questions?

