



THE 5TH VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT AWARDS THREE RESEARCH PROJECTS ON SKIN EXPOSOME FROM CHINA, FRANCE & BRAZIL.

Paris, June 29, 2021 - VICHY Laboratoires announced today the results of the 5th edition of the VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT, an initiative to promote and encourage research to characterize the skin exposome. **For the first time in 2021, three regional grants of €15,000 have been awarded to research projects originating from Asia & Pacific, Europe & North America and Latin America, Africa & Middle East.**

The winner for the Asia & Pacific region is Pr. Qi Zhao, PhD, from Shandong University, Jinan, China for his project entitled « *The interplay of long-term exposure to multiple air pollutants and climatic conditions, and their combined effect on extrinsic skin aging in China* ». With this project, Pr. Zhao aims at identifying the combined effect of long-term exposure to air pollution components and ambient heat on skin aging in the Chinese population.

The winner for the Europe & North America region is Pr. Vijaykumar Patra, PhD, from the International Center for Infectiology Research, Lyon, France for his project entitled « *The impact of skin microbiome on the immunomodulatory effects of ultraviolet radiation and its mediator cis-urocanic acid* ». The objective of Pr. Patra's research is to demonstrate the capacity of certain skin microbes to impede UV functions through their ability to metabolize cis-urocanic acid.

The winner for the Latin America, Africa & Middle East region is Pr. Marcelo de Paula Corrêa, PhD, from the Federal University of Itajubá, Brazil for his project entitled « *Exposome of Things (ExpoT): improving the knowledge on the environmental data related to the skin health using new technologies, big data and artificial intelligence* ». The objective of Dr. de Paula Corrêa's project is to build a system of data collecting, analysis and treatment allowing to determine the peculiarities of the extrinsic exposome in tropical sites and providing complementary information for studies of the intrinsic exposome.

A total of 86 grant applications were submitted from 36 different countries worldwide for this edition of the exposome grant, a fourfold growth of applications compared to the previous edition.

"We were impressed by so many excellent applications coming from all over the world. It really shows that there is a very strong interest in exposome research worldwide as it matters to skin." said Professor Jean Krutmann, Scientific Director of the Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine from the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany.

Prof. Krutmann is the Chairman of the independent jury in charge of assessing applications, composed of Professors Craig Elmets (USA), Haidong Kan (China), Thierry Passeron (France) and Sergio Schalka (Brazil).

With this 5th successful edition of VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT, VICHY Laboratoires are pursuing their commitment to supporting research on human skin exposome. According to Dr. Delphine Kerob, International Medical Director from Vichy Laboratoires, *"Exposome research and its impact on the skin is a rising topic. VICHY Laboratoires has supported four projects since 2016 leading already to three publications. This 5th edition was a great milestone with the support of three new research projects*



that we will follow. We will continue supporting skin exposome research and we look forward to the 6th edition next year.”

About the exposome

The human body is subjected to and responds to complex exposures throughout the lifespan, including environmental factors, diet, lifestyle factors and social influences.

For this highly complex interaction, the term of exposome was coined in 2005 by Dr. Christopher Wild at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization.

The skin exposome comprises several external and internal factors including UV radiation, climatic conditions (heat and humidity), medications, pollution, stress, and dermatology procedures that may damage the skin barrier, induce skin diseases or accelerate skin ageing.

Protecting skin integrity is essential to preserving its health.

About the VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT

For the first time in 2021, The VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT consisted in 3 regional research grants of 15,000€ each intended to promote and encourage research to characterize the skin exposome.

From 2016 to 2019, The VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT has already been awarded to 4 scientists:

- Pr. Giuseppe Valacchi awarded in 2019, from the University of Ferrara, Italy.
- Pr. Christine Moissl-Eichinger awarded in 2018, from the Medical University of Graz, Austria.
- Dr. Agatha Schwarz awarded in 2017, from Kiel University, Germany
- Dr. Tamara Schikowski awarded in 2016, from IUF Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, in Düsseldorf, Germany.

With this unique initiative, VICHY Laboratoires is aiming at supporting research projects on the human skin exposome, including projects dealing with skin conditions and diseases, either fundamental or clinical, conducted in any hospital, university, or other not-for-profit research institution. Application related to completed projects are not considered, as well as project involving animal research, or project investigating medical devices, medicinal or cosmetic products.

To learn more about the VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT

visit: <https://www.vichy.com/vichygrant>

About VICHY Laboratoires:

Contact: Dr Delphine Kerob