**THE 2020-2021 VICHY EXPOSOME RESEARCH GRANT:**

**3 REGIONAL GRANTS TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH TO CHARACTERIZE THE SKIN EXPOSOME**

**For the first time in 2021, three regional grants of €15,000 each will be awarded to research projects originating from one of the following regions:**

* **Asia & Oceania**
* **Europe & North America**
* **Latin America, Africa & Middle East**

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.

With VICHY EXPOSOME RESEARCH GRANT, VICHY Laboratoires is aiming at supporting research projects in the field of 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 will not be considered, as well as project involving animal research, or project investigating medical devices, medicinal or cosmetic products.

The applications for the 2021 VICHY EXPOSOME RESEARCH GRANTS will be reviewed by an independent jury of experts chaired by **Professor Jean Krutmann** (Germany) and composed of **Professors Craig Elmets** (USA), **Haidong Kan** (China), **Thierry Passeron** (France) and **Sergio Schalka** (Brazil).

The deadline for application is **March 31st, 2021**.

The awardees will be announced during an event planned for May 2021 (to be confirmed).

The VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT has already been awarded to 4 scientists:

* Pr. Giuseppe Valacchi awarded in 2019, from the University of Ferrara, Italy, for a research project on inflammasome activation in cutaneous conditions.
* Pr. Christine Moissl-Eichinger awarded in 2018, from the Medical University of Graz, Austria, for a research project on exposome and the skin microbiome.
* Dr. Agatha Schwarz awarded in 2017, from Kiel University, Germany, for a research project on skin microbiome and the immune system.
* Dr. Tamara Schikowski awarded in 2016, from IUF Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, in Düsseldorf, Germany, for a research project on the interplay between pollution and UVB.

**To learn more about the VICHY EXPOSOME GRANT and to apply, visit: https://www.vichy.com/vichygrant**

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