

Humboldt Kolleg

Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Doamnei St. 12, Bucharest
18-22 November 2020

Global Challenges of the 21st Century

- 1) Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

The Humboldt Foundation Programmes and Its Support for the Romanian Young Academy (RYA)

Since 1953, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been inviting top-notch scientists and scholars to Germany thereby fostering international academic exchange on the highest level. 387 academics from Romania have already become part of this Humboldt network, currently counting over 30,000 academics worldwide. The Foundation's credo is to sponsor people not projects, and its sponsorship offer includes a wide variety of alumni sponsorship opportunities, designed to enable Humboldt alumni to maintain their links to German academia whilst fostering their research careers in their home countries. With its vast experience and excellent connections, the Humboldt Foundation also thrives to support initiatives by its alumni in the wider field of scientific networking - such as the Romanian Young Academy.

Thomas Hesse has been Deputy Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation since February 2011. From 2000 to September 2011, he was the Head of the Selection Department. Prior to that, he served as Programme Director in the Selection Department and in the Department of Sponsorship Abroad. Dr. Hesse studied biology with an emphasis on molecular biology (botany), genetics, and biochemistry in Bonn. He then worked at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research and received his Ph.D. from the University of Bonn in 1989. As a post-doc, Dr. Hesse continued to conduct research at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research and at the Monsanto Company in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. In 1990, he was awarded the Otto Hahn Medal by the Max Planck Society for his research in the area of plant molecular biology.

Alexandru Babes, Humboldt ambassador scientist, completed a Bachelor in Physics and a Master of Science in Neurobiology at the University of Bucharest. In 2002, he also received his doctorate in

biology from the University of Bucharest with “Summa cum laude”. After his doctorate, worked at the Department of Pharmacology at Cambridge University as a post-doctoral research associate for more than half a year. Since 2008, Prof. Babes has been teaching and doing research at the Department for Animal Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Bucharest as a Professor for Neurobiology. His research currently focuses on the molecular mechanisms of sensory transduction in peripheral mammalian thermoreceptors and nociceptors. Using a combination of electrophysiological and imaging techniques, he has been involved in the characterization of cold-sensitive neurons in rodent dorsal root ganglia. Together with other researchers, he has shown that more than one neuronal population is involved in cold detection and they have described a novel type of cold-sensitive neuron with rapid adaptation to cooling stimuli for the first time.