

The Klaus J. Jacobs awards

In honour of its founder, the entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs, who passed away in 2008, the Jacobs Foundation has awarded two annual prizes since 2009. Endowed with a total of 1.2 million Swiss francs, the prizes recognize exceptional achievements in research and practice in the field of child and youth development.

- The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize acknowledges scientific work of high social relevance to the development of children and young people. The Jacobs Foundation attaches great importance to scientific findings from interdisciplinary research which can yield practical applications. The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize is endowed with one million Swiss francs.
- The Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award recognizes the exceptional commitment of institutions or individuals who put innovative solutions in the field of child and youth development into practice. The Best Practice Award is worth 200,000 Swiss francs.

Award winners to date

2011

Professor Michael Tomasello has been awarded the **Research Prize 2011** for his groundbreaking research into identifying exclusively human forms of cooperation, communication and cultural learning.

The **Best Practice Award 2011** goes to Christiane Daepf for the development of the "Ideenbüro" program, in which schoolchildren develop solutions for their fellow pupils' problems and thus learn to work together and assume responsibility.

2010

The **Research Prize 2010** was awarded to Professor Terrie Moffitt and Professor Avshalom Caspi (Duke University and King's College London) for their trailblazing research into the interplay between genetic disposition and environmental influences in the development of children and youth.

The **Best Practice Award 2010** was given to two organisations, Opstapje Deutschland e. V. and a:primo, for their sustained commitment to providing early support for socially-disadvantaged children by successfully implementing a play and development program in Germany and Switzerland.

2009

The **Research Prize 2009** was awarded to Professor Laurence Steinberg (Temple University) for his pioneering work in the psychopathology, risk-taking and decision-making behaviour of young people.

The **Best Practice Award 2009** was presented to Father Johann Casutt for successfully adapting the Swiss model for vocational training to the needs of young people in Indonesia.

The Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize jury and the Jacobs Foundation Board of Trustees

Knowing that the high expectations placed on the winner of the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize also impose high demands on the selection committee itself, the Jacobs Foundation has put together a jury made up exclusively of internationally renowned scientists. The jury comprises representatives of various scientific disciplines such as psychology, educational sciences and sociology. The jury selects the winner of the Research Prize from a pool of nominated candidates in the field of child and youth development. The committee of experts is made up of the following individuals:

Professor Albert Bandura, Stanford University, USA
Professor Monique Boekaerts, Leiden University, The Netherlands
Professor Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Columbia University, USA
Professor Meinrad Paul Perrez, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Professor Anne C. Petersen (jury president), University of Michigan, USA
Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
Professor William Julius Wilson, Harvard University, USA

The Board of Trustees of the Jacobs Foundation acts as the jury for the Klaus J. Jacobs Best Practice Award. The Board of Trustees is composed of the following individuals:

Dr. Joh. Christian Jacobs (chairman of the Board of Trustees), attorney at law with White & Case in Hamburg
Professor Jürgen Baumert, former director of the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research
Professor Ernst Buschor, former councillor and director of education for the canton of Zurich
Pascal Couchepin, former President of the Swiss Confederation
Lavinia Jacobs, attorney
Professor Eduardo Missoni, Bocconi School of Management, University of Milan, Italy
Dr. Auma Obama, Care International
Professor Marta Tienda, Princeton University, USA

The award ceremony at the University of Zurich

The two Klaus J. Jacobs prizes are presented annually in the first week of December at a celebratory award ceremony at the University of Zurich with guests invited from the fields of science, politics and business. The first award ceremony was held on 3 December 2009, the birthday of the founder of the Jacobs Foundation, Klaus J. Jacobs.