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## Robert Bing Prize 2018 goes to neuroscientist and psychiatrist Dominik Bach

**University of Zurich Professor Dominik Bach is the recipient of the Robert Bing Prize 2018 for his pioneering work on the neurobiological mechanisms of anxiety and fear memory. His research, recognized internationally, paves the way to the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder through a promising, innovative treatment combining a pharmacological and psychotherapeutic intervention. The Bing Prize is worth 50'000.– Swiss francs.**

The Prize, bestowed every two years by the SAMS, originates from a generous bequest of Basel neurologist Robert Bing (1878 – 1956). In accordance with the donor's will, the Prize is awarded to researchers up to 45 years of age who have done outstanding work to improve the recognition, treatment and cure of neurological diseases. Further information and an overview of past Bing Prize laureates are available on the SAMS website: → [sams.ch/bing-prize](https://sams.ch/bing-prize)

### Contact

Myriam Tapernoux, Department Science | +41 31 306 92 76 | [m.tapernoux@samw.ch](mailto:m.tapernoux@samw.ch)



Dominik Bach holds a tenure track assistant professorship for clinical psychiatry at the University of Zurich and is attending physician at the Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich. His laboratory investigates the neural basis of anxiety and avoidance in humans.

Through the establishment of a range of innovative measurement and analysis methods, he successfully translated animal models of fear conditioning to humans and could quantify the key factors implicated in traumatic memory formation. His results open up the way to a pharmacological modulation of synaptic plasticity, allowing to reconfigure and weaken pathological memories in patients with anxiety disorders.

After undergraduate degrees in medicine and psychology obtained in Bielefeld and Berlin, Dominik Bach earned a PhD in neuropsychology while doing his residency in psychiatry at Bern University Hospital. He moved to University College London for postdoctoral work in cognitive neuroscience, combined with a part-time degree in mathematics, and pursued his clinical and research activities in Berlin. He has been working as clinician and researcher in Zurich since his return to Switzerland in 2013.