

08 April 2020

## **DFG President Katja Becker: Utmost Support for the Continuation of Research Activities during the Corona Crisis**

Special focus on health and work-related concerns of researchers / Range of measures to alleviate impacts on timelines and funding

*The President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Professor Dr. Katja Becker, has issued the following statement addressed to researchers involved in DFG-funded projects:*

For a month now, the coronavirus pandemic has defined our everyday lives, the way we interact, and the way we work. This situation has also significantly impacted the research community, including the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and those employed at and/or involved with our research funding organisation.

Many of you at universities and research institutions have questions and concerns about the future of your current or planned research projects and have addressed these to the DFG. I would like to assure you that your questions and concerns are also our concerns. We are doing everything within our power to effectively support you and your work at this time.

The DFG acted early on to take initial precautionary and protective measures against the coronavirus pandemic and its further spread. These measures will continue to be adapted to the latest developments. Along with the protection of all those involved, it was and remains our goal to continue the funding activities of the DFG, and thus the funding of your research projects, as seamlessly as possible.

We are united in our dedication to achieve this goal. DFG Head Office staff, who are primarily working from home, continue to process proposals and manage funding flows, while reviewers, review board members and committee members decide on research funding proposals via telephone and video conference and written procedures. I would like to sincerely thank all those involved for this outstanding cooperation. With respect to the decisions being made now and in the coming months, we will continue to take account of the fact that research projects could not be carried out in the scheduled manner and with the planned productivity owing to the current situation.

Furthermore, we have implemented a series of measures to alleviate the effects of the pandemic on the timelines and funding of your work and projects to the greatest extent possible. These measures include the cost-neutral extension of projects tied to fiscal years, as well as compensatory, bridge and completion funding or the extension of calls for proposals, fellowships and employment contracts of doctoral researchers. Additional cost-effective measures are being developed.

We provide continuous updates about current and future measures on the internet at [www.dfg.de/en](http://www.dfg.de/en) and via Twitter at @dfg\_public.

Please contact our DFG Head Office if you have additional questions.

Even after the coronavirus pandemic peaks, it will take some time before research processes resume their normal course. The DFG will do its utmost to anticipate the challenges of the expected transitional situations, to take an active part in shaping them and to guarantee the utmost support for research projects. In doing so, we will continue to place a special focus on the health and work-related concerns of staff working on the projects.

On that note, I wish you and your families good health and – especially in times such as these when the importance of research becomes all the more apparent – continued success in your research endeavours.