

SF-DOHaD – Annual Activity Report 2025–2026

The past year has been particularly successful for the French Society for the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (SF-DOHaD), marked by major scientific achievements, strengthened governance, support for early-career researchers, and growing international recognition.

Membership

As of June 2026, SF-DOHaD counted **78 members**, reflecting the continued engagement of the French DOHaD community.

A successful 7th Annual Congress

The 7th SF-DOHaD Congress, held in Lille on 11–12 December 2025, brought together researchers, clinicians, healthcare professionals and students to discuss the latest advances in DOHaD research and foster interdisciplinary exchange. Attendance was strong, with 209 participants on the first day and 171 on the second day, as well as two remote participants. The congress also demonstrated SF-DOHaD's commitment to education and links between research and clinical practice. A parallel half-day workshop on breastfeeding, organised in connection with the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (IHAB), attracted 100 healthcare professionals, while 52 midwifery students participated throughout the congress.

The scientific programme featured 69 abstracts and 10 invited speakers, highlighting the vitality and quality of current DOHaD research. A round-table discussion, *How to Better Communicate About DOHaD*, moderated by a science journalist, encouraged reflection on science communication and knowledge dissemination. Scientific exchanges continued during the congress social events, including a gala dinner attended by 90 participants, providing further opportunities to strengthen collaborations. Support for early-career researchers remained central to the meeting. Six travel grants were awarded, alongside one Best Oral Communication Prize and two Best Poster Prizes recognising scientific excellence.

The SF-DOHaD congress winners



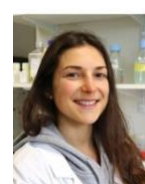
Maude Colombini

IAB, Grenoble



Julien Girardie

UREPSSS, Lille



Alice Le Brun

TOXALIM, Toulouse

Supporting the next generation

Supporting early-career scientists remains a strategic priority for SF-DOHaD. This year, the Society launched its first PhD Thesis Award, designed to recognise an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the DOHaD field. The inaugural call attracted seven applications, demonstrating strong interest among young researchers. Three candidates have been awarded recently the Thesis Prize. Abou Assi Aline, Adelaide Lucie and Bobin Paul.

The Society's Board was also renewed with the appointment of two new early-career members, ensuring greater representation of the next generation in SF-DOHaD governance. One will additionally

represent SF-DOHaD within the International DOHaD Trainees Network, strengthening connections with the international early-career community.

Expanding international engagement

SF-DOHaD continued to strengthen its international profile by contributing actively to the bid to host the 2029 International DOHaD Congress. Together with researchers based in Lausanne, the Society co-developed an Expression of Interest proposing Lausanne as the host city following the 2027 Congress in Japan. The proposal received the unanimous support of the Executive Committee of the International DOHaD Society, and SF-DOHaD and its Lausanne partners were invited to prepare the full bid. This initiative highlights SF-DOHaD's growing role in coordinating and promoting the French-speaking DOHaD community internationally. The full bid will be submitted in September 2026.