

alumni

DEUTSCHES KREBSFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM



*Congratulations!
Professor Harald
zur Hausen
receives the
Nobel Prize in
Medicine 2008
from King Carl
XVI Gustaf of
Sweden.*

Dear DKFZ Alumni and Friends,

The undisputed highlight of the DKFZ and its Alumni Association in 2008 was the donation of the Nobel Prize in Medicine to our distinguished founding member Professor Harald zur Hausen for his seminal findings on the role of human papilloma viruses (HPV) in the development of cervical cancer, paving the way for the development of vaccines against this global viral burden. In this Newsletter, Professor Lutz Gissmann, scholar, co-worker and colleague of Harald zur Hausen, describes decisive steps in this success story which has been closely linked to the DKFZ for exactly 25 years. This is also evident from the presentation of honorary silver badges for 25 years of service at the DKFZ to three former co-workers of the Nobel laureate as well as a number of other employees by the DKFZ Management Board in a ceremony preceding the Annual Reception. The winning of the Nobel Prize also

dominated the Reception, at the end of which Professors Harald zur Hausen and Otmar D. Wiestler discussed future aspects of cancer research.

Immediately before, several great sponsors of the DKFZ presented their personal views on the responsibility of successful companies to support society in general and the scientific community in particular. The scientific counterparts of these highly appreciated efforts are not only experienced researchers, but also a large number of young students and guest researchers from abroad who, in addition to the "old girls and boys", are in the focus of many activities of our Alumni Association, as outlined in this Newsletter. The guest research report by a "Großmeister" from Russia gives a very impressive example of a scientist from abroad with a steep career at the DKFZ and the University of Heidelberg.

The scientific success of the DKFZ is not only shown by the prestigious Nobel prize but also by additional outstanding awards to DKFZ scientists and Alumni. A promising future for the DKFZ and its regional and supra-regional partners is described in an article on the positive evaluation of the scientific program by an international review panel, and reports on the winning of the regional biotechnology cluster "Cell Based and Molecular Medicine" integrating the scientific efforts of the University of Heidelberg, the EMBL, and the DKFZ, particularly its new stem cell institute, and research and development of many regional biotechnology companies. This initiative is supported by highly devoted investors, and the communities of Heidelberg and Mannheim. In addition, a supra-regional alliance between Bayer-Schering and the DKFZ for the development of cancer drugs has been established recently.

International connections of the DKFZ are reflected in this Newsletter by a report on joint scientific efforts of Singapore and Baden-Württemberg, and the announcement of forthcoming DKFZ-related scientific events in Denver (USA), Tokyo (Japan) and Gliwice (Poland). The Board of the Alumni Association was strongly involved in the organisation of these events and sincerely hopes to meet many of you on these occasions. With best wishes from all of us at the DKFZ

Peter Gammale

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people

Awards to DKFZ Members



Dr Armin Pscherer, Division of Molecular Genetics, received one of the poster prizes for young investigators of 1,000 Euro each. The German Cancer Aid honoured him during the 3rd Mildred Scheel Cancer Conference for his research on candidate genes associated with leukaemia and lymphoma.



Dr Carlos Salazar, Research Group Modelling of Biological Systems, was honoured with the MTZ-Bioquant-Award for Systems Biology 2008. The prize of the Monika und Thomas Zimmermann Foundation endowed with 2,500 Euros supports the young investigator in his work on "phosphorylation cycles and the regulation of cellular processes".



Dr Holger Bastians, formerly PhD student at the Division of Molecular Biology of Mitosis and now Head of the Research Group Cell Cycle and Associated Checkpoints at Marburg University, received a Heisenberg-Fellowship from the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). The grant is dedicated to a research project on cell cycle regulation with special regard to the relevance of mitotic pathways in cancer treatment.

Dr Angelika Zabel-du Bois, Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiotherapy of the DKFZ and Senior Physician at the Radiological University Hospital Heidelberg, was awarded the Günther von Pannewitz-Prize endowed with 1,000 Euros. The German Association of Radiooncology (DEGRO) honoured her investigations on patterns of gene expression displayed in arteriovenous malformations which resulted in potential biological markers for successful obliteration.

In September 2008, **Dr Richard Taubert**, Division of Developmental Immunology, was awarded the Hans-Hench-Prize for Clinical Immunology 2008 for his PhD thesis on the implications of promiscuous gene expression for tolerance and autoimmunity. The prize is endowed with 2,000 Euros. Only a few weeks later, he also received the Ludolf-Krehl-Prize of 2,500 Euros for his doctoral thesis.

Dr Leif Schröder, formerly PhD Student at the Division of Medical Physics in Radiology and now Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Department of Chemistry at the University of California in Berkeley, was awarded the Dr Emil-Salzer Prize 2008 endowed with 5,000 Euros. The physicist was honoured for improvement of magnetic resonance imaging by implementing a combination of hyperpolarized Xenon gas and a Xenon biosensor attached to an antibody against a tumor-specific molecule. Thereby, MRI signals are amplified ten thousand-fold (see also page 15).

Prof. Harald zur Hausen, Emeritus Professor and former Scientific Director and Chairman of the DKFZ Management Board, is laureate of the Nobel Prize in Medicine 2008 as detailed on pages 2 and 3.



25th anniversary of employment at the DKFZ: Three former scholars working with Prof. Harald zur Hausen, namely Prof. Elisabeth Schwarz, Division of Tumor Virus Immunology (Immunology) (front row, 4th left), Prof. Lutz Gissmann, Head of the Division of Genome Modifications and Carcinogenesis (4th from right), and one of his group leaders, Dr Michael Pawlita (2nd right,) as well as Elfriede Mang, Secretary of the Alumni Association (front row, 2nd left), received the Badge of Honour in silver. The Management Board (Dr Josef Puchta, Prof. Otmar D. Wiestler, in the back, left) also awarded seven additional DKFZ members for 25 years of service for the DKFZ: (from left) Monika Cerff-Oetzel, Claudia Rensch, Dr. Peter Schmezer, Prof. Bruno Kyewski, Matthias Ehrbar, Michaela Hergt and Angelika Wörner.