

Cord-Michael Becker-Prize

Speaker

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Announcement and aim

Since 2013, the Faculty of Medicine and the Research Foundation of Medicine (compare own report) award the Cord-Michael Becker-Prize for outstanding doctoral research in molecular medicine.

With this award, the Research Foundation honors Prof. Dr. C.-M. Becker who developed and institutionalized the research-oriented degree program Molecular Medicine (compare own report) at FAU. The prize is endowed with 5,000 euros. It is awarded to graduates of any of the degree programs in molecular medicine for an outstanding doctoral thesis and aims at encouraging talented young researchers to pursue a scientific career. The prize is awarded on a yearly basis in a ceremony organized by the Faculty of Medicine.

Awardees of 2017 and 2018

In 2017, Dr. S. Koren-Hauer was awarded with the Cord-Michael Becker-Prize for her thesis entitled „Effects of PIK3CA mutations on mammary cell fate and cancer“. Dr. S. Koren-Hauer studied Molecular Medicine at FAU. After her studies, she pursued a doctoral thesis at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research at the University of Basel. Her results are significant in the field of tumor biology and breast cancer. She could show that the frequent mutations analyzed by her are causative for tumor heterogeneity and that the cell of tumor origin is decisive for malignancy. Reducing tumor heterogeneity may be beneficial for therapy and outcome of the patient.

In 2018, Dr. D. Hotter was honored with the Cord-Michael Becker-Prize. He received the award for his doctoral thesis „Modulation of viral gene expression and antiviral immune response by primate lentiviral proteins Vpu, Vpr and Nef“. Dr. D. Hotter studied Molecular Medicine at the University of Ulm and continued

with a doctoral thesis at the Institute for Molecular Virology of the university hospital Ulm. His results yield fundamental insights into the mechanisms of the immune deficiency virus HIV to escape from the innate immune response. His work helps to develop new therapies that are based on better immune control of HIV and aim for a reduction of the detrimental chronic activation of the immune system.



The awardee 2017, Dr. S. Koren-Hauer, with Prof. Dr. B. Fleckenstein of the Research Foundation of Medicine (Photo: C. Stolt, FAU)



Cord-Michael Becker-Prize 2018 (from left to right): Prof. Dr. B. Fleckenstein, Prof. Dr. W.G. Daniel (Research Foundation of Medicine), Prof. Dr. F. Kirchhoff (thesis supervisor of the awardee), Dr. D. Hotter (Cord-Michael Becker-awardee 2018), Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. J. Schüttler (Dean), Prof. Dr. C.M. Becker (guest of honor) (Photo: C. Warter, FAU)