

Research Foundation of Medicine

Speaker

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Aims and structure

The Research Foundation of Medicine at the UK Erlangen was founded in December 2007 by an initiative of professors of the Faculty of Medicine. The initial capital stock of almost 150,000 euros was given by 36 founder members – mainly directors of departments and institutes – out of their personal assets. The Research Foundation of Medicine at the UK Erlangen is intended to be a permanent and stable means of financing in particular medical research, independent from public funding and support. Thus, former patients, alumni, and other patrons can support with their donations individual projects as well as certain medical disciplines or clinics, and also medical research at the UK Erlangen in general. Model for our initiative was the long-lasting, successful culture of foundations at the universities in the USA.

Goals

The Research Foundation of Medicine at the UK Erlangen pursues four main goals:

- Advancement of research in all fields of basic and clinical sciences in medicine, including the bestowal of research awards
- Advancement of training and further education of students, physician, and scientists
- Promotion of the public health care system, especially in the fields of prevention and early diagnosis of disease
- Benevolence within the medical care of patients in need

Development

The Research Foundation of Medicine provides attractive honors and stimulations for sponsors: Donators of 10,000 euros or more are listed on

a special table of honor placed in the main entrance hall of the UK Erlangen, with a fostering sum of 100,000 euros it becomes possible to establish an separate foundation bearing one's name within the Research Foundation of Medicine, and in certain cases a lecture hall may be named after a particularly generous sponsor (e.g. the Rudolf-Wöhrl-Hörsaal and Ernst-Freiberger-sen.-Hör saal). Due to the innovative model of the Research Foundation of Medicine, many generous sponsors could be found during the last years. In addition, an appeal to donate not yet changed Deutsche Mark to the Research Foundation of Medicine (and receive the donation receipt on the converted euro sum) contributed to the successful development. Until the end of 2018, the Research Foundation of Medicine was able to distribute approximately 4.9 million euros for various projects. This high amount became possible also by a "Matching-Funds" concept, established by the UK Erlangen in 2011. The UK Erlangen increases all financial supports given by the Research Foundation of Medicine by additional money out of the clinic income that is subject to income tax. The "Matching-Funds" program has also stimulated the willingness of donators for funding immensely. This concept is successfully practiced in other countries, as e. g. USA and UK.

The Research Foundation of Medicine at the UK Erlangen has meanwhile supported a large number of projects. This is true for many clinical or basic research projects.

- The "Erlanger Medizinische Bürgervorlesung", a series of 12 – 14 lectures on up-to-date medical topics, was initiated in 2007 and addresses each term interested citizens. During the last 20 terms, it has reached a large audience (200 – 400 participants each lecture), numerous lectures were also broadcasted by television, and in 2012 the "Erlanger Medizinische Bürgervorlesung" was awarded with the Erlanger Medizinpreis.
- For the fifth time, the Research Foundation of Medicine – together with the Faculty of Medicine – has given the Jakob-Herz-Prize (compare own report) to an outstanding researcher in the field of medicine: In 2018, Prof. Dr. L. Zitvogel, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, and Professorship for Immunology and Biology, Université Paris Sud, was the awardee.
- Since 2013, the Research Foundation of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine award the Cord-Michael Becker-Prize (compare own report) for an outstanding doctoral research study in Molecular Medicine. In 2016, the prize was given to Dr. L. T. Jae, PhD (Marburg,

Cambridge/USA, Utrecht), in 2017 to Dr. S. Koren-Hauer, PhD (FAU, Basel); both prizes were handed out in 2017.

- The Cord-Michael Becker-Prize 2018 was awarded to Dr. D. Hotter (Ulm).

The Research Foundation of Medicine also awards each year a prize for the best dissertation study (thesis) in the field of clinical and basic research, respectively. In 2017, Dr. K. Sofia Friedlein (Department of Neurosurgery) and Dr. E. Eberhard (Institute of Physiology and Pathophysiology), and in 2018, Dr. N. Oetter (Department of Oral and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery) and Dr. J. Dieckow (Chair of Functional and Clinical Anatomy) were awarded this prize for their outstanding theses.

On November 30, 2017, the Research Foundation of Medicine celebrated the tenth anniversary in the Orangerie in Erlangen. The ceremony was attended by a large number of participants, including the Bavarian Minister of the Interior, for Sport, and Integration, J. Herrmann, representatives of FAU, UK Erlangen and in particular many supporters, sponsors, and friends of the Research Foundation of Medicine. An anniversary publication describes the development and achievements of the foundation during the first ten years in details.



Tenth anniversary of the Research Foundation of Medicine (from left to right) Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H. Iro (Medical Director), Prof. Dr. W. G. Daniel (Chairman of the Executive Board of the Research Foundation of Medicine), J. Herrmann (Bavarian Minister of State), Prof. Dr. B. Fleckenstein (Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Research Foundation of Medicine), Prof. Dr. J. Hornegger (President of FAU)