Neuroallianz Publication Award 2014

Three outstanding scientific papers in the area of neurodegenerative diseases awarded

For the first time the Strategic Advisory Board of the Neuroallianz Consortium granted the „Neuroallianz Publication Award“ for excellent scientific work in the area of neurodegenerative diseases to young scientists. The awardees are members of the Neuroallianz Consortium, a strategic partnership of academic and industry partners, focusing on research and development of innovative diagnostics and therapies. The objective is to progress novel approaches for neurodegenerative diseases from basic research to clinical development and finally to the patient. The biopharma company UCB as main industry partner of the consortium is donating the awards. The selection of the submitted publications is taken by an international jury composed of scientists from university and industry, the Strategic Advisory Board of the Neuroallianz Consortium. On behalf of this advisory board Dr. Barbara Stegmann, Neuroallianz Consortium Manager and Vice President BioDev Strategic Projects, Biopharma Development Solutions at UCB, as well as Dr. Bernward Garthoff, BIO.NRW, member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the Neuroallianz Consortium handed over the awards at the UCB site in Monheim, Germany.

This year the Gold award in the amount of 1.000 EUR went to a double publication on

- Structure of the human P2Y12 receptor in complex with an antithrombotic drug
  and
- Agonist-bound structure of the human P2Y12 receptor

The Silver award in the amount of 500 EUR went to the following publication:

- Different MicroRNA Profiles in Chronic Epilepsy Versus Acute Seizure Mouse Models

Silver (500 EUR) also went to the paper:

- 8-Benzyltetrahydropyrazino[2,1-f]purinediones: Water-Soluble Tricyclic Xanthine Derivatives as Multitarget Drugs for Neurodegenerative Diseases

For the winner Dr. Andreas Brunschweiger from the Technical University of Dortmund the cooperation with various partners is a great support: „The many and valuable experiences I made within the scope of Neuroallianz I pass to my students. For me as scientist it was an important learning that it is not sufficient to synthesize bioactive substances. In fact there are multiple complex processes of drug optimization necessary before the drug can be applied to living organisms.

Dr. Barbara Stegmann: „It is exciting to observe how the cooperation between members of academic and industry partners becomes more intensive and understood and how learning from each other is increasing. This all inures to the benefit of the projects and thereby ultimately to the benefit of the patients“.
For Dr. Bernward Garthoff the Neuroallianz Publication Awards not only honors outstanding scientific papers but are also incentives for young scientists. „Without excellent science and the cooperation with industry in the network there will be no medical progress“.

The winners of the Neuroallianz Publication Award 2014 donated by the biopharma company UCB.

About the Neuroallianz-Konsortium:
The Neuroallianz Consortium, a public-private biopharma research alliance since 2009, focuses on the research and development of innovative diagnostics and therapeutics for improved treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. The consortium comprises of a strategic partnership between publicly funded research institutions, biotechnology companies and the pharmaceutical industry. Its objective is the translation of innovative research into novel therapeutic targets and diagnostics methods for improved staging of neurodegenerative diseases.


About (add information on your institution/company here):
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Note to Editors:

Gold Award:
Structure of the human P2Y₁₂ receptor in complex with an antithrombotic drug
Journal Nature 2014, 509, 115-118
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Agonist-bound structure of the human P2Y₁₂ receptor
Journal Nature 2014, 509, 119-122
Jin Zhang1*, Kaihua Zhang1*, Zhan-Guo Gao2, Silvia Paoletta2, Dandan Zhang1, GyeWon Han3, Tingting Li1, Limin Ma1, Wenru Zhang1, Christa E. Mu¨ller4, Hualiang Jiang5, Vadim Cherezov3, Vsevolod Katritch3, Kenneth A. Jacobson2, Raymond C. Stevens3,6, Beili Wu1 & Qiang Zhao1
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Silver Award:
Different MicroRNA Profiles in Chronic Epilepsy Versus Acute Seizure Mouse Models
Anita Kretschmann1*, Benedicte Danis2*, Lidija Andonovic1, Khalid Abnaof3, Marijke van Rikxoort1, Franziska Siegel1, Manuela Mazzuferi2, Patrice Godard4, Etienne Hanon2, Holger Froehlich3, Rafal M. Kaminski2, Patrik Foerch2, Alexander Pfeifer1,5
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Silver Award:
8-Benzyltetrahydropyrazino[2,1-f]purinediones: Water-Soluble Tricyclic Xanthine Derivatives as Multitarget Drugs for Neurodegenerative Diseases
Journal ChemMedChem 2014, 9, 1704-724
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