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Frankfurt am Main, September 30, 2009

Prof. Charles Dinarello to receive the 2010 Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize

Frankfurt am Main. **Prof. Charles Dinarello**, 66, of the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, USA, is to receive the 100,000 euro Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize 2010 for his outstanding contributions to research in the field of cytokines. The decision to confer the award on him was made by the Board of the Paul Ehrlich Foundation.

The Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize is among the most prestigious international prizes awarded in the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of medicine. The award ceremony will take place at the Paulskirche in Frankfurt on March 14, 2010, the birthday of Paul Ehrlich (1854–1915).

Modulators of inflammatory reactions

Cytokines regulate inflammation and reactions to infection, injury and cancer. Whereas some cytokines make disease worse, others reduce inflammation and promote healing. Attention has focused on blocking cytokines that are harmful to the host, particularly during overwhelming infection. Interleukin-1 (IL-1) and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) are proinflammatory cytokines that produce fever, inflammation, tissue destruction, and in some cases shock and death. Reducing the biological activities of IL-1 or TNF is therefore the aim of various therapeutic measures and has been highly successful in patients with a variety of inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and graft-versus-host disease. Prof. Dinarello is considered a founding father of cytokine biology. He purified and cloned interleukin-1 beta (IL-1 β) and established the use of IL-1 inhibitors such as monoclonal antibodies for therapy. For example, reducing IL-1 activity is used for the treatment of patients with periodic inflammatory syndromes, gout, type 2 diabetes, multiple myeloma and in children with a severe form of arthritis.

Prof. Charles Dinarello, 66, received his medical degree from Yale University and his clinical training at Massachusetts General Hospital. From 1974-1977 he was senior investigator at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. After being Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine and a staff physician at the New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston, he moved to the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine in 1996.

Dr. Dinarello serves on the editorial board of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences as well as several scientific journals. He has published over 600 original research

articles on cytokines, particularly interleukin-1 and TNF. He has served on the Board of Scientific Advisors of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Alliance for Lupus Research, was Vice President of the American Society of Clinical Investigation (1989–1990) and President of the International Cytokine Society (1995–1996).

In 1993, he was awarded Germany's Ernst Jung Prize for Medicine for his contributions to the study of infectious diseases and cytokines. He donated the entire prize money to universities and research institutes in the United States and Israel, and established the Sheldon M. Wolff Professorship at Tufts University to honor his late mentor. Prof. Dinarello received the Ludwig Heilmeyer Gold Medal of the Society for Internal Medicine, the International Chirone Prize from the Italian National Academy of Medicine, the Carol Nachman Prize in Rheumatology, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashdid al Maktoum Award (United Arab Emirates) and the Beering Award (USA). In 2009, he received the Albany Prize in Medicine (USA) and the Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Prof. Dinarello holds honorary degrees from the University of Marseille (France), the Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel) and the University of Frankfurt (Germany).

The Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize

The Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize is traditionally presented on Paul Ehrlich's birthday, March 14, in the Frankfurt Paulskirche. It is awarded to scientists in recognition of their special achievements in Paul Ehrlich's field of research, especially immunology, cancer research, hæmatology, microbiology and chemotherapy. Hilmar Kopper, Chairman of the Council, will present the award jointly with a representative of the Federal Ministry of Health. The prize, which has been awarded since 1952, is financed by tied donations from the Federal Ministry of Health, companies and the German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies.

The Paul Ehrlich Foundation

The Paul Ehrlich Foundation is a legally dependent foundation of the Association of Friends and Patrons of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main e.V. The Honorary President of the Foundation, which was set up in 1929 by Hedwig Ehrlich, is the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, who also appoints the elected members of the Council and the Board of Trustees. The Chairman of the Association of Friends and Patrons is at the same time the Chairman of the Council of the Paul Ehrlich Foundation. This committee selects the prizewinners. The President of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University is ex officio member of the Board of Trustees of the Paul Ehrlich Foundation.

Further information

The detailed CV and a photo of the prize winner as well as a list of publications is available from the Paul Ehrlich Foundation Press Office (c/o Dr. Monika Mölders, Telephone: +49 6238 982783, Telefax: +49 6238 982784, E-Mail: Paul-Ehrlich-Stiftung@pvw.uni-frankfurt.de).

Additional information:

Prof. Dr. Charles Dinarello: www.uchsc.edu/id/faculty/dinarello.htm