

PRESS RELEASE

International medical research award in honour of founder and entrepreneur Else Kröner

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the early death of Else Kröner, the Else Kröner Fresenius-Stiftung (Foundation) will endow an international research award of €4 Million. The award intends to acknowledge world-wide pioneering discoveries in the field of immunology and to facilitate future research by the winning individual or team.

Bad Homburg, April 15, 2012

As a student of pharmacy in 1948, Else Kröner wrote in her diary: "Science wants to be conquered" - she was quick to recognise the enormous challenge and great potential of medical research. On June 5, 2013, the 25th anniversary of her death, the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (Foundation) will honour her memory with an international medical research, the Else Kröner Fresenius Immunology Award. Candidates may be nominated until July 4, 2012 (www.ekfs.de/immunology-award).

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung intends to recognise outstanding research achievements in the field of medical immunology with a personal award component of at least 500,000 Euros. In addition, up to €3.5 million will be awarded for future research. The award thus combines tribute to past scientific achievement with the opportunity for the winner or winning team to dedicate themselves to their research unencumbered by the necessities of raising funds for their work.

The entire selection process will be carried out in close cooperation with the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), an international umbrella organisation of the immunological societies. A selection committee of internationally eminent researchers, who have been awarded the highest scientific honours, will be chaired by the IUIS president, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c Stefan H.E. Kaufmann and will choose the winner or winning team.

Immunological research is - as awarding Nobel prizes in this area have shown - very dynamic and has a broad clinical potential in its fields of application. Immunology research is dedicated to understand and cure infectious diseases, allergies, chronic inflammatory diseases, immunodeficiency and autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, immune responses are involved in the basic mechanisms of neurodegenerative, cardiovascular disease and cancer. EKFS intends to use the Else Kröner Fresenius Immunology Award as a means of promoting one of the most important medical research fields.

More information is available at: www.ekfs.de/immunology-award

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (Foundation)

The foundation was established in 1983 by the entrepreneur Else Kröner, nee Fernau, as her sole heir, dedicated mainly to supporting medical research and humanitarian projects (www.ekfs.de). The EKFS generates almost all its income through dividends from the Fresenius health care group, of which it is main shareholder. The Foundation only promotes research activities, which results are accessible to the public. To date, the Foundation has funded about 1,000 projects with a total of € 130 million.

International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

IUIS (www.iuisonline.org/iuis/index.php) represents over 65 national societies of immunology from all over the world with approximately 50,000 individual members. IUIS promotes among others international co-operation between scientific societies, supports research and development in various fields of immunology and serves as an interface between immunological research in developing countries and industrialised countries, and between applied and basic research as well as students and experienced scientists. IUIS continues to promote dialogue between science and politics, and between the press and the public.

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