



DZD

German Center for
Diabetes Research

DZD-NEWS 3/2015

Dear Reader,

A very successful year for the DZD is nearing its end. Much has been achieved, and the DZD 2.0 research program is making very good progress. Established processes of translational research, interdisciplinary collaborations and the promotion of young scientists have been successfully continued, with special attention directed at exciting research fields such as Computational Biology or Epigenetics. In 2015 the DZD attracted new top scientists to its staff and enhanced its visibility in the international scientific community. Scientific results were published in more than 250 papers and presented at international conferences. The DZD projects in the EU consortium EIT Health are an indication of the further internationalization of the DZD. The latest research results of the DZD were presented at numerous events and in discussions. There DZD scientists explained these findings and their significance for individualized diabetes prevention and therapy to the interested public and people with diabetes as well as to opinion leaders and decision makers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the work of the DZD for their dedication and excellent cooperation and wish you and your families a happy holiday season and all the best for 2016.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H.-U. Häring

Prof. Dr. M. Hrabě de Angelis

Prof. Dr. M. Roden

Prof. Dr. A. Schürmann

Prof. Dr. M. Solimena

Dr. A. Glaser

Current DZD Publications:



Diabetes Prevention: Who Benefits from Lifestyle Modification?

DZD scientists identified a phenotype among patients with prediabetes that is associated with nonresponse to lifestyle modification in the Tübingen Lifestyle Intervention Program (TULIP). These participants showed a lack of reversal of prediabetes despite reduction of body weight. Characteristics of non-responders were low insulin secretion relative to insulin resistance or insulin-resistant nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. In future, stratification of individuals with prediabetes at baseline may help to determine the effectiveness of a lifestyle intervention. The next question is: Can a reduced response to a standard-lifestyle intervention be overcome by an intensified lifestyle intervention? The German Prediabetes Lifestyle Intervention Study (PLIS) has been started in eight centres throughout Germany to investigate this issue.

Source: Diabetologia, 2015



New Surgically Reversible Diabetes Subtype

DZD scientists at the Paul Langerhans Institute Dresden characterized a new reversible, tumor-associated diabetes subtype: Cholestasis-induced diabetes. This surgically reversible blood glucose dysregulation diagnosed concomitantly with a (peri-)pancreatic tumor appears secondary to compromised liver function due to tumor compression of the common bile duct and the subsequent increase in insulin resistance.

These data enable the pancreatic surgeon to estimate the postoperative metabolic consequences in the course of partial pancreatic resection and to improve his patient's information accordingly. Furthermore, "new-onset diabetes" in elderly patients (age > 50 years) and temporary surveillance of bile duct, pancreas and liver cell parameters during the first months after the diagnosis of impaired glucose metabolism might serve as an effective and practical filter for pancreatic cancer screening.

Source: PLoS One, 2015



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GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Young Researchers Active at the 3rd DZD Diabetes Research School in Stockholm

In September the DZD Diabetes Research School took place for the third time. As in the previous year, the international meeting with 86 doctoral students and postdocs from 19 nations and 6 renowned speakers was held in advance of the EASD.

New this year was that the young researchers were allowed to present their own posters on selected topics. This participatory element and the roundtables at lunch promoted the personal exchange of ideas even more. For example, one participant commented: "The relaxed atmosphere was great – you really had the feeling of belonging to a community!"

Under the chairmanship of Hans-Ulrich Häring and Michele Solimena the young researchers introduced the speakers and their expertise. The speaker list included: Barbara Cannon (Stockholm), Leif Groop (Malmö), Philip Larsen (Sanofi Frankfurt/M.), Patrik Rorsman (Oxford), Ulf Smith (Gothenburg) and Claes Wollheim (Geneva).

Applicants who could not attend due to the limited number of participants in Stockholm now have a new opportunity to take part at the next DZD School in Munich in 2016.



DZD: Reachout to Community and Society

Again in 2015, the DZD supported the **3rd Helmholtz Nature Diabetes Conference in Munich**, which under the leadership of Matthias Tschöp, the scientific director of the Helmholtz Diabetes Center, has become a firm fixture in the conference calendar of international diabetes research.

The DZD was represented at the **Annual Meeting of the German Obesity Association** by Annette Schürmann, congress president and DZD speaker, and other DZD members.

At a **discussion among experts in the German Bundestag on the diabetes epidemic** with Hermann Gröhe, Federal Minister of Health, and Christian Schmidt, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, and representatives of the DZD, the importance of research on individualized preventive measures was stressed.

DZD scientists held lectures and participated in panel discussions at the **central event of World Diabetes Day** in Düsseldorf and answered questions at the DZD stand.

More information on all events at
www.dzd-ev.de/aktuelles/news

Awards and Prizes for DZD Scientists

Prof. Matthias Blüher, University of Leipzig, was awarded the Minkowski Prize for his research on the role of adipose tissue in the pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Maren Carstensen-Kirberg, DDZ, received the MTZ Award of the University of Düsseldorf for her research on chronic inflammatory processes involved in type 2 diabetes and the identification of novel inflammatory proteins.

Prof. Baptist Gallwitz, IDM, has assumed the presidency of the DDG until 2017.

Prof. Hans Hauner, HMGU, is the winner of the DAG Medal 2015 for his research on obesity.

At this year's EASD, **Prof. Hans-Ulrich Häring, IDM**, was honored with the Claude Bernard Lecture for his life's work in prediabetes research.

PD Dr. Martin Heni, DDZ, received the Rising Star Award of the EASD for his research on insulin action in the human brain and the metabolic consequences.

Prof. Stefan Herzig, HMGU, is the 2015 award winner of the German Liver Foundation for his research in hepatology.

PD Dr. Barbara Ludwig, PLID, was awarded the Young Researcher Prize of the IDF Europe for her research on type 1 diabetes and beta cell replacement therapy.

Dr. Kristin Mühlenbruch, Dife, received the Young Female Scientist Award of the Forschungsverbund Berlin for her contribution to the further development of the Dife – GERMAN DIABETES RISK TEST®.

Prof. Karsten Müssig, DDZ, and his SMS project to prevent obesity in children received the DAG Prevention Prize.

Dr. Nina-Henriette Uhlenhaut, HMGU, was honored for her contributions to the study of molecular genetic mechanisms of endocrinological and metabolic diseases with the Friedmund Neumann Prize.

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Phone: +49 (0)89-3187-4718, E-Mail: contact@dzd-ev.de, www.dzd-ev.de

Board of Directors: Prof. Dr. Hrabě de Angelis, Prof. Dr. Roden,

Prof. Dr. Dr. Solimena

Managing Director: Dr. Astrid Glaser

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