



# DZD-NEWS 4/2013

## Dear Reader,

The past months were scientifically very successful for the German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD). A number of congresses and conferences provided the DZD ample opportunity to present the translational research concept and the current scientific knowledge of the associated working groups to interested diabetes experts from around the world. The DZD is now considered a pioneer in developing new research concepts and utilizing synergies in diabetes research.

In this newsletter we therefore want to inform you about the various activities of the DZD at international scientific events and about the DZD's commitment to fostering young international research talents.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H.-U. Häring

Prof. Dr. M. Hrabě de Angelis

Prof. Dr. Dr. H.-G. Joost

Prof. Dr. M. Roden

Prof. Dr. M. Solimena

Dr. A. Glaser

## Great Success for the First DZD Diabetes Research School

On November 6th the historic Casa Convalescencia of the University of Barcelona provided the setting for the first DZD International Diabetes Research School. Five internationally renowned scientists presented an overview of the latest results and trends in diabetes research to 90 outstanding young scientists from around the world.

The students enthusiastically enjoyed the opportunity to discuss topics with Professor Ron Kahn, Professor Morris White and Professor Domenico Accili from the U.S., Professor Emmanuel van Obberghen from France and Professor Fatima Bosch from Spain. Anja Marciniak, doctoral student at the Paul Langerhans Institute Dresden, commented on the in-



Photo: DZD



Current DZD Publications:

### New Multipotent Gut Hormone Is Effective in Diabetes Treatment

A novel hormone combination in a single molecule, which acts equally on the receptors of the insulin-stimulating hormone GLP-1 and GIP, leads to effective weight loss and to improved blood sugar levels.

With this study, the team led by Professor Tschöp of Helmholtz Zentrum München, together with colleagues from Indiana University, has developed a new therapeutic approach for type 2 diabetes. The results were published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Sci Transl Med October 30, 2013, Vol. 5, Issue 209



### First Results from the DZD Prediabetes Cohort

The unique DZD prediabetes cohort with 8,106 patients was established by combining the data of all DZD partners. This is a valuable data collection enabling the DZD to gain first insights into the prediabetes risk when there is a family history of diabetes. Thanks to this large cohort, new and early forms of prevention and therapy can be studied and implemented in the future.

Diabetologia. DOI 10.1007/s00125-013-3002-1.

spiring atmosphere that prevailed between young and experienced researchers: "The professors geared their lectures to the young audience. They gave us young researchers an excellent overview of the various diabetes-relevant topics and shared their long-standing experience with us." The two DZD executive board members, Prof. Hans-Ulrich Häring and Prof. Martin Hrabě de Angelis, who together with five young scientists moderated the event, were excited about the great interest of the students and the high quality of the lectures.

During the subsequent international symposium on Insulin Receptors and Insulin Action, the students had the opportunity to present their own research work at the high-profile event and to establish and build up networks.



Photo: DZD



### New in the DZD: The Research Coordination Board

The Research Coordination Board (RCB) was established this year in order to further develop the scientific research program. The RCB consists of three scientists per partner and the DZD speakers. With its great expertise in all areas of diabetes research, it is ideally positioned to promote the translational aspect of research.

#### Members of the RCB

Al-Hasani | Bonifacio | Bornstein | Fritsche | Häring | Hrabě de Angelis | Joost | Kuß | Lammert | Lickert | Pfeiffer | Roden | Schulze | Schürmann | Solimena | Speier | Staiger | Stefan | Tschöp | Ziegler

### Significant Increase in International Visibility

Due to its strong presence at international scientific conferences, the DZD is now widely known even beyond Germany's borders as an expert in diabetes research. In autumn 2013 the DZD informed scientists and industry representatives about its activities and current research results at the following events:

At the **IDEA Summit** on September 18th in Lund, Sweden, experts from academia and industry convened to discuss strategies for developing innovative diabetes therapies. Prof. Tschöp represented the DZD in the panel discussion.



Photo: Mats „Wolw“ Jönsson

Prof. M. Tschöp (2nd from right) at the summit's panel discussion.

At the **European Diabetes Congress (EASD)** on September 23-27, 2013, the DZD was represented with numerous lectures and posters and a well-visited exhibition stand in the Association Village.



Photo: EASD

From left.: M. Größer, Vice Director EASD, B. Fröhlich, DZD, A. Boulton EASD President, J. Nabais, President IDF Europe.

Furthermore, the DZD was partner to two international scientific events, which were organized by Helmholtz Zentrum München:

- 1st Helmholtz-*Nature Medicine* Diabetes Conference
- Oktoberfest Symposium: Shaping Type 1 Diabetes

### Active Participation in World Diabetes Day

From November 14-18, the DZD participated in numerous events in conjunction with World Diabetes Day. To raise global awareness of diabetes, the International Diabetes Federation called for illuminating distinctive buildings in blue.



Photo: Allianz Arena

Upon the initiative of the DZD partners, the Allianz Arena in Munich, the TV tower in Düsseldorf and the Holsten Gate in Lübeck were lit up in blue. This was accompanied by well-attended information events, in which DZD scientists held talks on diabetes and answered individual questions. Besides the central event in the ICC in Berlin, which attracted more than 5000 visitors, the Diabetes Patient Day took place in Düsseldorf. In addition, information was provided on diabetes research at the Munich Science Days and on nutrition and lifestyle in Lübeck.

### Awards and Prizes for DZD Scientists

**Prof. Dr. Anette-Gabriele Ziegler**, Helmholtz Zentrum München, received the Mary Tyler Moore and S. Robert Levine Excellence in Clinical Research Award.

**Prof. Dr. Matthias Tschöp**, Helmholtz Zentrum München, and **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Ulrich Häring**, University of Tübingen, were honored with membership in the Leopoldina.

**Dr. Heike Vogel**, German Institute of Human Nutrition, Potsdam-Rehbrücke (DIfE), received the Brandenburg Young Scientist Award.

#### Impressum

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