

Prince Mahidol Award for Harald zur Hausen**Thailand honors Heidelberg Cancer Researcher with Royal Award**

Professor Harald zur Hausen, former Chairman and Scientific Member of the Management Board of the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ) has been bestowed with a very special honor. Thailand's Prince Mahidol Award Foundation has chosen the 69-year-old cancer researcher as this year's recipient of the prize that bears the name of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla. Zur Hausen, a specialist on papillomaviruses, which are considered to be a cause of cervical cancer, receives the 50,000 US-Dollar prize for his contributions to the 'Public Health Service'.

The award ceremony will take place in Bangkok on 26th January 2006 in the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall of the Dusit Palace. There His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej will present the prizewinner with a medal and a certificate. At a reception the next day Harald zur Hausen will be a guest of the Prime Minister of Thailand. Moreover, the expertise of the renowned Heidelberg cancer researcher is also in demand: Zur Hausen is invited to deliver a talk about his research work.

For some years now, the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum has fostered scientific relationships with Thailand. In 1995 the Center concluded a cooperation agreement with the Chulabhorn Research Institute covering a joint project to study the chemical constituents of Thailand's flora. The Thai Princess Professor Chulabhorn Mahidol visited the DKFZ in October 2000 to learn about research into natural substances that can prevent or slow down the development of tumors. She also gained an overview of the diagnosis and therapy of lung cancer, and of cancers particular to women. With this transfer of knowledge, the DKFZ is supporting the development of a cancer center in Bangkok.

Prince Mahidol of Songkla, the father of the present King of Thailand was responsible for modernizing the health-care and health-education systems in Thailand. He is thus highly regarded by the population as the father of modern medicine and of the public health system. It was in his honor that the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation was founded in 1992 and the prize bearing his name introduced, a prize honoring excellent achievements in the areas of 'Medicine' and 'Public Health Service'. The President of the Foundation is Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The task of the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum in Heidelberg (German Cancer Research Center, DKFZ) is to systematically investigate the mechanisms of cancer development and to identify cancer risk factors. The results of this basic research are expected to lead to new approaches in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The Center is financed to 90 percent by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and to 10 percent by the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. It is a member of the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers (Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V.).

This press release is available at www.dkfz.de/pressemitteilungen

Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch
Division of Press and Public Relations
Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280
D-69120 Heidelberg
T: +49 6221 42 2854
F: +49 6221 42 2968