

Award-Winning Research for the Patient**DKFZ awards Richtzenhain Prize and Dr. Emil-Salzer Prize**

The jury at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) chose two outstanding young researchers, Matthias Eder and Mathias Heikenwalder, whose research findings can be directly translated into clinical practice.

The 2012 Richtzenhain Prize winner, **Professor Dr. Mathias Heikenwalder**, is only 36 years old and already a well-known expert on the links between chronic inflammation and cancer. Just a few years ago, he was able to show how hepatitis B and C viruses cause liver cancer. Infection with these pathogens causes an inflammation in the liver which promotes the development of cancer. Based on these findings, clinical trials are being prepared for substances which interrupt this inflammatory cascade.

Mathias Heikenwalder, who leads a junior research group at the Helmholtz Center Munich, recently found out in a sensational research work how metastasizing cancer cells use an inflammatory molecule to exit the bloodstream and form metastases in distant tissues. In his publication, the biologist also showed ways to block the newly discovered inflammatory molecule to prevent metastasis. Mathias Heikenwalder was honored for his leading-edge research with numerous science awards and obtained one of the highly competitive starting grants from the European Research Council.

The Richtzenhain Prize, which DKFZ awards on behalf of a foundation established by neurologist Walther Richtzenhain and his wife Christine, is awarded annually, alternately to doctoral students at Heidelberg research institutes and, like this year, to scientists from across Germany for publications in the field of translational cancer research. This year's prize is worth €10,000.

Dr. Matthias Eder, who is the winner of the Dr. Emil Salzer Prize, pursues research at the Division of Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry at DKFZ, where he also did his doctoral thesis. As a young postdoctoral fellow, the biotechnologist developed a substance which attaches specifically to a surface molecule of prostate cancer cells and can be made visible using positron electron tomography (PET). The new radiopharmaceutical substance has been clinically applied in individual cases and has convinced physicians: Even very small lymph node metastases can thus be made visible in PET imaging. It also facilitates early detection of cancer recurrence after treatment. Clinical trials are being prepared to approve the substance for use in PET diagnostics of prostate cancer and, thus, make it available for patients around the world.

The Dr. Emil Salzer Prize has been awarded by DKFZ on behalf of Baden-Wuerttemberg's Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts since 1970. It was founded by Emil Salzer, a physician from Reutlingen, Germany. Salzer left his bequest to the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg under the condition that the proceeds be used for supporting cancer research. The prize money currently is €5,000.

The award ceremony will take place on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. as part of DKFZ's annual alumni reception at the Communication Center (KOZ). Guests are very welcome to attend.

The German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ) with its more than 2,500 employees is the largest biomedical research institute in Germany. At DKFZ, more than 1,000 scientists investigate how cancer develops, identify cancer risk factors and endeavor to find new strategies to prevent people from getting cancer. They develop novel approaches to make tumor diagnosis more precise and treatment of cancer patients more successful. The staff of the Cancer Information Service (KID) offers information about the widespread disease of cancer for patients, their families, and the general public. Jointly with Heidelberg University Hospital, DKFZ has established the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg, where promising approaches from cancer research are translated into the clinic. In the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK), one of six German Centers for Health Research, DKFZ maintains translational centers at seven university partnering sites. Combining excellent university hospitals with high-profile research at a Helmholtz Center is an important contribution to improving the chances of cancer patients. DKFZ is a member of the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers, with ninety percent of its funding coming from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the remaining ten percent from the State of Baden-Württemberg.

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