

Der Rat für die Verleihung des Otto Naegeli-Preises
hat am 16. November 2011 beschlossen,
den Otto Naegeli-Preis
zur Förderung der medizinischen Forschung 2012

PROF. DR. MED.
Lars E. French

zu verleihen.

Dieser Beschluss wurde aufgrund folgender
Laudatio gefasst:

PROF. DR. MED. LARS E. FRENCH

has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of skin diseases resulting from defective regulation of inflammation and cell death. Professor French graduated from the University of Geneva and trained in internal medicine, basic research, and dermatology. He rapidly established his own research group devoted to translational research on cell death and the role of TNF family members in skin disease. As a young clinician-scientist benefiting from a career development award of the Swiss National Science Foundation his group discovered that the cytotoxic molecule Fas-Ligand (CD95L) is a cause of cell death in the skin of patients suffering from one of the severest and deadly forms of drug allergy toxic epidermal necrolysis. Simultaneously he identified that intravenous immunoglobulin preparations for medical use can block this type of cell death, and reported positive results with this novel approach in treating patients suffering from this severe drug allergy in the distinguished journal *Science* in 1998. Later, as Visiting Professor at the Department of Dermatology of the University of Pennsylvania, and Louis-Jeantet Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva he demonstrated that lymphomas of the skin selectively inactivate Fas to escape cell death during development in humans, an event that can partially be corrected by interferons, a current mainstay in the treatment of early forms of this cancer. More recently, as Professor of Dermatology at the University of Zürich, he has made significant contributions in understanding skin innate immune responses regulated by the inflammasome-IL-1beta pathway and their contribution to allergic skin diseases such as contact dermatitis.

Professor French is internationally recognized as a leading figure in investigative dermatology through his contributions to the field and his ability to bridge science and medicine in an extremely innovative manner. His outstanding contributions to the field of skin biology and disease over the past 20 years have resulted in more than 170 publications, 7000 citations and numerous awards.

ZÜRICH, 24. April 2012

DER PRÄSIDENT DES PREISRATES: