

PROF. DR. MED. ADRIAN F. OCHSENBEIN

The Otto Naegeli Price 2016 is awarded to Prof. Adrian Ochsenbein in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements as a clinically active medical oncologist and his extremely successful scientific career in the field of basic and translational cancer research. His research has focused on the elucidation of the mechanisms of immune response to cancer cells and how cancer cells manage to escape the control of the immunological defense system. To study these basic mechanisms, he and his research team worked mainly with tumor models in mice. In parallel, in the context of clinical trials with patients suffering from cancer, he evaluated how the scientific findings made in the laboratory could be translated into new strategies for the immunotherapy of cancer in humans. By doing so, the research team of Prof. Ochsenbein was able in recent years to define various molecular mechanisms by which leukemia stem cells evade an immune response. The results of these studies have been published in some of the best scientific journals including "Cell Stem Cell" and "Science Translational Medicine". Of particularly great importance was the discovery that the interaction of CD70 with CD27 and subsequent signaling events have a great therapeutic potential. As a consequence of this, a clinical trial was successfully developed with the aim of blocking this signaling pathway in patients with acute myeloid leukemia. The scientific contributions in cancer research made by Prof. Ochsenbein are not only of fundamental relevance, but also of great importance for the successful development of new, original methods of cancer treatment using immunotherapy.

ZÜRICH, 14. April 2016

DER PRÄSIDENT DES PREISRATES:

