

Press release September 7, 2018

1. Jena Aging Meeting (JAM) from September 6-8 in Jena

Around 200 researchers from 16 countries meet in Jena from September 6-8 at the international "Jena Aging Meeting" to discuss latest research results and developments in the field of aging research. The very first JAM is organized by the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) together with the Leibniz Research Alliance "Healthy Ageing".

Jena. From September 6-8 the first international conference in Jena on the issue of aging will take place; the "Jena Aging Meeting (JAM)". About 200 participants from 16 countries are going to meet to discuss the latest research results, methods and developments in the field of aging research. Topics include the gene- and protein-related mechanisms in aging, DNA damage response in cancer and aging, metabolism in health, disease and aging, genomic instability and senescence in aging, stem cells in tissue homeostasis, regeneration and aging.

The Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) together with the Leibniz Research Alliance "Healthy Ageing", the "Aging Research Center Jena", and the "Jena Centre for Healthy Aging" organize the first "Jena Aging Meeting", which takes place in the lecture halls of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) on the Ernst Abbe Campus. To foster scientific exchange at every level, the three-day conference also offers much space to socialize in addition to numerous lectures and poster sessions. The organizers expect more than 20 internationally renowned speakers, who will give insights into their field of expertise in aging research.

Together with its partners including the FSU and the Jena University Hospital, research on aging has a special significance for the city: The common goal is to bolster aging research in Jena with a combined basic and translational research approach in order to understand the mechanisms that contribute to aging and aging-related diseases.

Keynote speakers at the JAM will be the stem cell researcher *Prof. Dr. Emmanuelle Passegué* from Columbia University, New York, USA and the molecular biologist *Prof. Dr. Jan Hoeijmakers* from the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Emmanuelle Passegué investigates how hematopoietic stem cells regulate blood production in a constantly changing organism during its lifetime. Emmanuelle's question is of central importance for tissue development, maintenance and tissue regeneration and has implications for e.g. response to stress, development of diseases and the aging process.

Jan Hoeijmakers' investigates the mechanisms of DNA repair and the consequences of the defects in repair mechanism on gene stability during aging and cancer as well as various hereditary diseases. His current goal is to elucidate how DNA damage, senescence, apoptosis and stress induction affect the stem cell niche and contribute to the process of skin aging.

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Picture



Poster of the Jena Aging Meeting. (Design: FLI)

Background information

The **Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI)** – upon its inauguration in 2004 – was the first German research organization dedicated to research on the process of aging. More than 330 employees from over 30 nations explore the molecular mechanisms underlying aging processes and age-associated diseases. For more information, please visit www.leibniz-fli.de.

The Leibniz Association connects 93 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz Institutes collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of "WissenschaftsCampi" (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the institutes' importance for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 19,100 individuals, including 9,900 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.9 billion EUR. See www.leibniz-association.eu for more information.