

## **International recognition for Jena's aging research: Prof. Valenzano elected to AHLR**

**The Academy for Health and Lifespan Research (AHLR) has elected Prof. Dr. Dario Riccardo Valenzano, Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena, as a new official member. The AHLR brings together leading international researchers in the field of geroscience and supports research and development aimed at extending healthy life expectancy. The admission of Prof. Valenzano strengthens the international visibility of Jena as a research location and underscores the importance of his contributions to the biology of aging.**

**Jena.** The Leibniz Institute on Aging - Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) is pleased to announce the election of Prof. Dr. Dario Riccardo Valenzano to the prestigious Academy for Health and Lifespan Research (AHLR). The AHLR brings together leading international researchers in the field of geroscience, an interdisciplinary field that investigates the biological basis of aging. The aim is to better understand the mechanisms of aging and target them specifically. The results will contribute to extending human healthspan and improving the quality of life in old age.

Prof. Valenzano is Scientific Director of the FLI in Jena and Professor at Friedrich Schiller University (FSU). He heads the research group “Evolutionary Biology / Microbiome-Host Interactions in Aging” at the FLI. With his research and pioneering work on the African turquoise killifish (*Nothobranchius furzeri*), he has opened up new approaches in aging research. His research findings on the role of the microbiome in aging, on immune aging, and on evolutionary aspects have attracted considerable international attention.

“Being elected to the AHLR is a great honor - not only for me, but for the whole institute. It underlines that our research in Jena is recognized internationally and is influencing how society will deal with the issue of aging in the future,” explains Prof. Valenzano.

### **International “Who's Who” of aging research**

The AHLR's goal is to extend the healthy lifespan of the population in a sustainable manner. As an interdisciplinary platform, it promotes scientific excellence, translational research, and public education in the interest of healthy and active aging and supports political decision-making processes with scientific expertise.

For the FLI, Prof. Valenzano's membership strengthens its international visibility, provides closer links to groundbreaking developments in the field of aging research, and opens up new perspectives for international cooperation and scientific policy initiatives.

"This award highlights the excellence of aging research in Jena and opens new doors for cooperation, resources, and talents, Valenzano continues.

## **Academy for Health and Lifespan Research (AHLR)**

The *Academy for Health and Lifespan Research* (AHLR) is a non-profit organization founded in 2019. The headquarter is located in Newton Center, Massachusetts, USA. The AHLR pursues the 4C mission – Catalyze, Connect, Convene, Communicate – to promote collaboration between science, policy, industry, and society to systematically research and combat age-related diseases.

Further information:

<https://www.ahlresearch.org/home>

<https://www.ahlresearch.org/dario-valenzano-phd>

## **Contact**

Dr. Kerstin Wagner

Press & Public Relations

Phone: 03641-656378, Email: [presse@leibniz-fli.de](mailto:presse@leibniz-fli.de)

## **Photo**



Prof. Dario Riccardo Valenzano, Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena and Professor at Friedrich Schiller University (FSU). (Photo: FLI / Francesca Damari)

## Background

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. Around 350 employees from around 40 nations explore the molecular mechanisms underlying aging processes and age-associated diseases. For more information, please visit [www.leibniz-fli.de](http://www.leibniz-fli.de).

The **Leibniz Association** connects 96 independent research institutions that range in focus from natural, engineering, and environmental sciences to economics, spatial, and social sciences and the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic, and ecological relevance.

They conduct basic and applied research, including in the interdisciplinary Leibniz Research Alliances, maintain scientific infrastructure, and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer, particularly with the Leibniz research museums. It advises and informs policymakers, science, industry, and the general public.

Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – including in the form of Leibniz ScienceCampi – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to a transparent, independent evaluation procedure. Because of their importance for the country as a whole, the Leibniz Association Institutes are funded jointly by Germany's central and regional governments. The Leibniz Institutes employ around 21,400 people, including 12,170 researchers. The financial volume amounts to 2 billion euros. For more information: [www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/](http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/).