Press Release
May 17, 2019

Beutenberg Campus Award for Dr. Alessandro Ori of FLI as best junior scientist

Dr. Alessandro Ori of the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena has been honored as best junior scientist with the Beutenberg Campus Award "Life Science and Physics" of the Beutenberg Campus e.V. on May 16, 2019. Dr. Ori is heading the research group "Aging of Protein Complexes" at FLI and is investigating the impact of aging and environmental factors on organs on a molecular level. The award was presented in Jena as part of the "Noble Talks" event with Prof. Dr. Detlef Weigel of the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, Tübingen.

Jena. Every year the Beutenberg Campus Jena e.V. awards young researchers in life sciences and physics for their outstanding achievements during the public lecture series "Noble Talks". This year Dr. Alessandro Ori of the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) was honored with the 1000 € Beutenberg Campus Award "Life Science and Physics". The award ceremony with Prof. Dr. Peter Zipfel, Chairman of the Board of the Beutenberg Campus e.V., took place on May 16, 2019, as part of the event series "Noble Talks".

Dr. Alessandro Ori is an expert on the field of mass spectrometry based proteomics. He uses advanced analytical methods to characterize large protein complexes in detail and to gain insight into the proteome to understand how biological systems work, for example during aging. He employs unbiased approaches to scrutinize the total proteomic makeup of biological systems. For his research, he combines ultra-sensitive mass spectrometry with other omics-technology and bioinformatics approaches.

By pioneering the integration of proteomic and genomic approaches, Dr. Ori performed time-resolved analyses revealing a new perspective on the whole cell's proteome composition and spatiotemporal changes of protein complex stoichiometries. He was the first to demonstrate that multiple mechanisms contribute to determine age-related alterations of the proteome, thus highlighting the need for proteomic approaches to reveal mechanisms of aging, especially organ aging.

Dr. Alessandro Ori started to build up his research group at FLI in September 2015 with the aim to characterize the molecular mechanisms of aging using a unique combination of innovative technological approaches and advanced model systems. Currently, the group applies and develops novel approaches that use mass spectrometry to study protein interactions, stability, organelle composition and different types of post-translation modification in the context of aging. In his relatively short career, Dr. Alessandro Ori has made important contributions to the fields of structural biology, systems biology and aging research. He has now been honored for his outstanding scientific achievements with the Beutenberg Campus Award as best young researcher.

About the researcher

Alessandro Ori obtained his master degree in Biotechnology at the Università degli Studi di Bologna in Italy. During his studies he did a research placement at the Université Paris 7-D.Diderot in France. He obtained his PhD in Biochemistry of the University of Liverpool in 2010. He then worked as postdoc in the “Structural and Computational Biology Unit” at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany, supported by scholarships of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the EU Marie Curie Actions. Alessandro Ori has been junior group leader at the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena since September 2015. His research group “Aging of Protein Complexes” analyzes the influence of aging and environmental factors on organs on a molecular level. The group’s goal is to identify, in an unbiased way, functionally relevant alterations of the proteome that will enable the researchers to understand the mechanisms of organ deterioration that impact on healthy lifespan.

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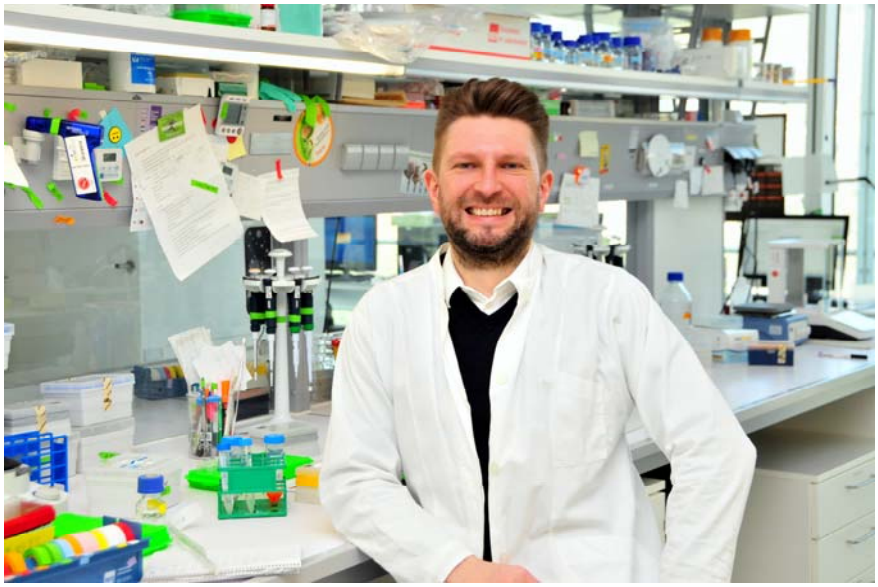

Picture 1: Dr. Alessandro Ori, junior group leader at the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI), has been honored with the Beutenberg Campus Award. (Source: Kerstin Wagner / FLI)

Picture 2

Dr. Alessandro Ori together with Prof. Dr. Peter Zipfel, chairman of the board of the Beutenberg Campus Jena e.V., during the award ceremony on May 16, 2019. (Source: Kerstin Wagner / 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.