



**Press Release**  
**2015-05-26**

## **Stem Cells in Monastery Cells**

### **FLI organizes top-class Else Kröner-Fresenius Symposium in Erice, Sicily**

**Jena/Erice. Under the direction of Prof. Dr. K. Lenhard Rudolph, German Leibniz Institute for Age Research – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) invites international scientists to VII. Else Kröner-Fresenius (EKF) Symposium on Adult Stem Cells in Aging, Diseases and Cancer to Erice, Sicily. At this scientific high-level conference, 120 stem cell researchers will exchange information on unpublished research approaches and results. The meeting will take place from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> in antique Italian San Domenico Monastery.**

It's already for the fourth time, that Prof. Dr. K. Lenhard Rudolph, scientific director of the Leibniz Institute for Age Research – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) calls the scientific elite of international stem cell researchers to join at Else Kröner Fresenius (EKF) Symposium on Adult Stem Cells in Aging, Diseases and Cancer. Solely sponsored by the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung and supported by the local host, the Majorana Foundation, international top researchers will exchange information on unpublished research approaches and results at Patrick M.S. Blackett Institute, located in the antique San Domenico Monastery in Sicily, Italy, from May 31st to June 3rd. Besides renowned researchers from cancer or aging institutes from the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Canada or UK, top-scientists like Thomas A. Rando (Stanford University), Elaine Fuchs (The Rockefeller University) or Steven Artandi (Stanford University) belong to the invited speakers.

“The EKF Symposium is especially attractive due to its exclusive list of attendees and the limitation on unpublished research concepts and results“, Prof. Dr. Rudolph explains. „Like this, research projects can benefit from scientific exchange, and procedures as well as results may be positively enhanced - way before results are published“. Especially for young scientists, who are granted by a travel stipend to be able to attend, the symposium may act as a scientific spring board. How relevant the Symposium's scientific results are shows the fact that a review on 2013's EKS was published in renowned journal Nature Cell Biology in 2014.

#### **The Symposium.**

Since 2009, FLI has been organizing the international EKF Symposium every two years. Limited to 120 attendees and focused on the discussion of unpublished approaches of international top-scientists, the EKF has developed to a world-wide highlight within the scientific landscape. The Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung holds scientific symposiums on selected bio-medical topics of high public relevance and complexity, aimed at giving international experts the opportunity to discuss current results and research strategies in fast growing research areas. The implementation of these symposiums is the foundation's answer to the increasing speed of data generation as well as the rising multidisciplinary of research concepts wherefore an integration of knowledge is needed more than ever.

## **Background Information**

The **Leibniz Institute for Age Research – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI)** is the first German research organization dedicated to biomedical aging research since 2004. More than 330 members from over 30 nations explore the molecular mechanisms underlying aging processes and age-associated diseases. For more information, please visit [www.fli-leibniz.de](http://www.fli-leibniz.de).

The **Leibniz Association** connects 89 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 18,100 individuals, including 9,200 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.64 billion EUR. See [www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu) for more information.

Since its foundation in 1983, **Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation (EKFS)** has mainly been dedicating to support bio-medical research as well as humanitarian aid projects. EKFS is biggest shareholder of the pharma enterprise Fresenius, obtaining almost all revenues from the enterprise’s dividends. To this day, the foundation has supported more than 1,300 projects with a total volume of 200 million Euro. EKFS is a nonprofit civil-law foundation located in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe. See [www.ekfs.de](http://www.ekfs.de) for more information.

## **Contact:**

Dr. Evelyn Kästner

Leibniz Institute for Age Research – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI)

Beutenbergstr. 11, D-07745 Jena

Tel.: +49 3641-656373, Fax: +49 3641-656351, E-Mail: [presse@fli-leibniz.de](mailto:presse@fli-leibniz.de)