



Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Honours Outstanding Young Scientists

Edward Lemke and Hai-Kun Liu to receive research awards of 100,000 € each in pursuit of their research

On January 27th, the Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation honoured two outstanding young scientists based in Heidelberg. Dr. Edward Lemke and Dr. Hai-Kun Liu each received a prize money of 100,000 € for their research. With the 2015 prizes, the Foundation recognises Dr. Lemke's and Dr. Liu's excellent work in the field of biomedicine. Dr. Lemke conducts research in structural biology at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Heidelberg where he is developing new biological tools for manipulating biomolecules. At the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Dr. Liu is investigating stem cells of the central nervous system and their role in the development of brain tumours.

Edward Lemke has studied physical chemistry at the Technical University of Berlin and the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. In 2005, he obtained a PhD degree working at the Max-Planck Institute for Membrane Biophysics in Göttingen. Following a postdoctoral period at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, he became a group leader at EMBL Heidelberg (Emmy Noether in 2009 and ERC investigator in 2015). The award acknowledges his success in using novel chemical and synthetic biological tools to manipulate biomolecules.

Hai-Kun Liu has studied biology at Shandong Normal University, China, and earned his PhD in 2005 at the Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences. From 2005 to 2010 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Molecular Biology at DKFZ. He has led the independent Helmholtz-University Young Investigator Group at DKFZ since 2011 and the research division of Molecular Neurogenetics since 2015. This award recognises him as a leader in stem-cell biology and also for his outstanding accomplishments in chromatin regulation of adult neurogenesis.

At the awards ceremony, Dr. Lemke and Dr. Liu briefly presented their work. EMBL General Director Prof. Dr. Iain Mattaj lauded Dr. Lemke while Prof. Dr. Hannah Monyer, who directs the Department of Clinical Neurobiology at the DKFZ and Heidelberg University Hospital, similarly honoured Dr. Liu. The event was moderated by Prof. Dr. Heinrich Betz, a member of the Foundation's board. Prof. Dr. Rohini Kuner, the first Research Awardee (2005) and also a board member, presented the certificates and prizes. The ceremony was held on January 27, 2016, in the Ute Greenier Hall of the BioQuant Centre, Neuenheimer Feld.