
PRESS RELEASE

International research award in honor of founder and entrepreneur Else Kröner

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the early death of Else Kröner, the Else Kröner Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS foundation) will endow an international research award of € 4 Million. The award intends to acknowledge world-wide pioneering discoveries in the field of immunology and to facilitate future research by the winning individual or team.

Bad Homburg, April 15, 2012

As a student of pharmacy in 1948, Else Kröner wrote in her diary: "Science wants to be conquered." She was quick to recognise the enormous challenge and great potential of medical research. Else dedicated her life to the healthcare company Fresenius SE while supporting medical research and humanitarian projects. On June 5, 2013, the 25th anniversary of her death, the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS foundation) will give an international research award in the field of immunology in her honor. Candidates may be nominated until July 4, 2012 (www.ekfs.de/immunology-award).

EKFS intends to acknowledge outstanding research achievements in the field of medical immunology with a personal award component of at least 500,000 Euros. In addition, up to € 3.5 million will be awarded for future research. The award thus combines tribute to past scientific achievement with the opportunity for the winner or winning team to dedicate themselves to their research unencumbered by the necessities of raising funds for their work.

The entire selection process will be carried out in close cooperation with the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), an international umbrella organisation of over 65 immunological societies around the world. A selection committee of internationally eminent researchers, chaired by IUIS president Prof. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann, will select the winner or winning team.

Immunological research is aiming to find a cure for infectious diseases, allergies, chronic inflammatory diseases, immunodeficiency and autoimmune diseases. In addition, the immune system is involved in the basic mechanisms of neurodegenerative, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Immunology's importance was underscored in 2011 when the Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to three immunologists. EKFS intends to use the Else Kröner Fresenius Immunology Award as a means of further promoting immunology as one of the most vital medical research fields.

More information is available at: www.ekfs.de/immunology-award

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS foundation)

The EKFS foundation was established in 1983 by the entrepreneur Else Kröner, born Fernau, as its sole heir. EKFS is dedicated mainly to supporting medical research and humanitarian projects. The foundation generates almost all its income through dividends from the Fresenius health care group, of which it is main shareholder. The Foundation only promotes research activities, the results of which are accessible to the public. To date, EKFS has funded approximately 1,000 projects with a total of € 130 million. More information is at www.ekfs.de

International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

IUIS is a global non-profit association that represents over 65 national societies of immunology from all over the world with approximately 50,000 individual members. IUIS promotes international cooperation between scientific societies and encourages collaborative research programs co-managed by developing and industrialised countries to address specific needs of low income countries. IUIS promotes education and dialogue among scientists, students, politicians, press and the general public in order to contribute to the advancement of immunology in all its aspects. More information is at www.iuisonline.org

Contacts

For EKFS:

Dr. Susanne Schultz-Hector
Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
61352 Bad Homburg, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6172 897510
E-Mail: kontakt@ekfs.de

For IUIS:

Prof. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann
President, IUIS
Max-Planck Inst. for Infection Biology
Dept. Immunology Schumannstr
21/22 10117 Berlin, Germany
Tel. +49 30 28460-500
E-mail: kaufmann@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de

Dr. Jean-Loup Romet-Lemonne
IUIS – New York Office
1120 Ave of the Americas, 14th floor
New York, NY 10036 U.S.A.
Tel: +1 (646) 504-3573
Email: iuis.ny@verizon.net