Martin Krönke  
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2001

Clinical Trials of rVSV Ebola Vaccine in Africa and Europe

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 5:30 p.m.  
MaRS Centre  
MaRS Collaboration Centre, South Tower, Room CR3  
101 College Street, Toronto, Ontario

Reception to follow

Opening remarks:
Walter Stechel, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Canada  
Annette Doll-Sellen, Director, New York Office, German Research Foundation (DFG)  
Christopher J Paige, Vice President, Research, University Health Network

The German Research Foundation (DFG) is proud to present a Leibniz Lecture in Toronto by Professor Martin Krönke, Leibniz Prize winner of 2001, on “Clinical Trials of rVSV Ebola Vaccine in Africa and Europe”. The event takes place in cooperation with the University Health Network, MaRS and the Consulate General of Germany, Toronto.

Please RSVP here and print out your free ticket for admission:


A brief abstract of the lecture:

The recent epidemic outbreak of Ebola virus disease called for a concerted response that enabled rapid containment of Ebola infections and mitigation of the consequences that the outbreak had for the public. In general, vaccines represent an invaluable tool for the prevention of epidemic infectious diseases. A replication-competent recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (rVSV)- expressing a single Zaire ebolavirus glycoprotein (rVSV-ZEBOV) had been previously developed by Heinz Feldmann and colleagues and showed promise in completely protecting nonhuman primates against Ebola infection. In August 2014, the Canadian government donated
800 vials of rVSV-ZEBOV to the WHO to initiate phase 1 studies to facilitate rapid progression to phase 2 and 3 trials in affected countries. The German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) assessed the safety and immunogenicity of rVSV-EBOV in Hamburg, Germany, and in Lambarene, Gabon. Ebola specific neutralizing antibodies were detected in all vaccines. This warrants further evaluation of this vaccine candidate for safety and efficacy.

Professor Martin Krönke MD, was born on April 9, 1953, in Marburg, Germany. He received his medical training at the University of Mainz. Since 2010, Dr. Krönke is Chairman of the German Center for Infection Research, and a member of the Academy of Sciences Erfurt and of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Science. His areas of research include cellular microbiology, innate immunity, and cytokine signalling.

The Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize is the highest honour awarded in German research. Established in 1985, the prize provides an unparalleled degree of freedom to outstanding scientists and academics to pursue their research interests. Up to ten prizes are awarded annually with a maximum of €2.5 million per award. Prize recipients are awarded the prize solely on the basis of the scientific quality of their work. The Leibniz Prize honours the well-known scientist and humanist Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), who was a leading figure in the fields of philosophy, mathematics, physics and theology.

The German Research Foundation (DFG) is the central, self-governing organization funding science and basic research in Germany. Serving all branches of science and the humanities, its members comprise German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academies of Science and the Humanities.

The chief task of the DFG is to fund the best research projects by scientists and academics at universities and research institutions, which are selected on the basis of a multi-layered peer review process. The DFG is a cornerstone of Germany’s strength as a research nation and it plays a key role in structuring academic research in Europe.

The DFG organizes Leibniz Lectures in different regions across the world in order to promote the prize, the research conducted by the prize holders, and the high quality of German science in general.
Martin Krönke, CV:

1979: Graduation and MD
1980-1983: postdoctoral fellow, Institute for Medical Microbiology, University of Mainz, Germany
1983-1985: Postdoctoral fellowship (DFG) Metabolism Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA
1988: “Habilitation” at the University of Göttingen
1989: Board Certification “Laboratory Medicine”
1989–1991: Heisenberg-Professor of the DFG
1991–1995: Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Technical University of Munich
1993: Board Certification “Microbiology and Infection Epidemiology”
1994: SmithKline Beecham’s Scientific Award for Basic Medical Research
1995–1999: Full Professor and Chairman, Institute of Immunology, Medical Center, University of Kiel
1998: Head of the Collaborative Research Center 415 “Specificity and pathophysiology of signal transduction pathways”
Since 1999: Full Professor and Chairman, Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene, Medical Center, University of Cologne

2001: Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz-Prize, (DFG)
2002-2009: Chairman, Center for Molecular Medicine University of Cologne (CMMC)
Since 2006: Head of the Collaborative Research Center 670 “Cell-autonomous immunity
Since 2010: Chairman of the German Center for Infection Research. Member of the Academy of Sciences Erfurt and of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Science
Recent publications:


