EASD Young Scientists Training Course 2005

– Supported by Eli Lilly –

EASD will hold its Twelfth Young Scientists Training Course in Bristol, UK from 21 to 26 June 2005.

By organising the Scientists Training Course, EASD hopes to attract new talent to diabetic research, in addition to fostering diabetes research in new centres throughout the world. The Selection Committee (Chair: D. Geremia Bolli; co-Chair: Dr. Claes Hellerström) will be looking for candidates under the age of 40 with some experience in research and who work in an academic environment. A letter of support from the head of the academic department will be considered an essential part of the application. The Course will be held in English and it is understood that all applicants will be able to communicate in this language. All participants will be required to attend the entire Course.

Venue and organisers

The twelfth Course will be hosted by the University of Bristol, U.K. (www.bris.ac.uk) and organised by Professor Guy A Rutter and colleagues.

Format

A hands-on practical course will be provided for a maximum of 16 participants, who will rotate in groups through the laboratories. Each day will begin with an overview of the day's schedule followed by thematic blocks, which will consist of brief introductory lectures and practical training sessions. A discussion on the day's topics will conclude each day.

Focus

This course is designed to provide hands-on training in some of the basic aspects of islet biology including islet isolation, insulin secretion and mRNA extraction,

as well as higher level instruction on calcium and ATP imaging, quantitative RT PCR, apoptosis assessment and oligonucleotide microarrays. There will also be lectures on other aspects of islet biology and diabetes. The modular concept of sessions will provide for intensive interaction with trainers and trainees. Overall the principal goal of this course is to provide detailed knowledge and skills in various methods, so that the participants should be able to set up those techniques at their home institutions.

Techniques

- Islet isolation, culture and infection with adeno- and retroviruses
- Insulin secretion *in vitro* (radioimmunoassay)
- Islet and single cell imaging: calcium (fluorescent probes), vesicle movement (confocal and total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy using targeted GFPs and other probes), ATP (recombinant targeted luciferases; ultra-low light level imaging), NAD(P)H (confocal)
- RNA isolation; purification; RT-PCR; Microarray analysis

Criteria and eligibility for acceptance to the Course

Any member of EASD who is still under the age of 40 on 1 June 2005 is eligible. The number of participants is strictly limited and the most suitable candidates will be selected by the sub-committee on the basis of the information provided in the application form.

Cost of the Course

Applicants will be asked to pay Euro 240 registration fee, as well as their transportation to and from Bristol,

UK. All other expenses, including board and lodging, will be covered by EASD funds, supported by Eli Lilly. Each applicant will be evaluated for eligibility and following individual requests, the registration fee may be waived. In exceptional circumstances and following a formal application, EASD may, if necessary, also provide a travel grant.

Application procedures

Interested candidates should submit their application as a Word file attachment to secretariat@easd.org or by post (4 copies) to:

EASD Secretariat
Rheindorfer Weg 3
D-40591 Düsseldorf
Germany

The application must include the following:

- I. A curriculum vitae giving date and place of birth, current professional address (with telephone and

fax numbers and email address) and full details of education and academic and/or clinical career to date. There should be a complete list of publications and mention of any meetings or workshops attended.

- II. A one-page letter of support from the Head of the applicant's current Department. Aside from attesting to the qualities of the candidate, this letter should clearly state how the department proposes to provide the necessary facilities and support to allow the candidate to continue in diabetes research.
- III. A one-page description of the applicant's current research interests, including a brief explanation of how the applicant feels the Course will help in a future career in diabetes research.

Applications not including these pages will not be considered.

Applications must be received at the EASD Secretariat in Düsseldorf before 14 January 2005 (regardless of postmark).

“The Rising Star Symposium” – Request for Applications

to be presented at the 41st EASD Annual Meeting in Athens 2005

The “**Rising Star Symposium**” aims to identify promising and innovative young researchers. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to present an overview of their past and ongoing research activities during a multidisciplinary research symposium at the EASD Annual Meeting. Four candidates will be selected every year, two in basic research and two in clinical research. Selected candidates will be invited by EASD to present a 30 min (25 min lecture + 5 min question time) lecture, and will receive a commemorative diploma. EASD will cover travel expenses, and hotel and registration costs for the selected scientists.

The Candidate:

Candidates for the Rising Star Symposium must be paid-up members of EASD and have a PhD, MD or equivalent degree. The candidate must be under the age of 35 (for basic research) or 37 years (for clinical research) on 1 January 2005. Preference will be given to individuals who have consistently pursued a well defined, logical and innovative research line, leading to several publications in high impact peer-reviewed journals.

The application to deliver a lecture at the “**The Rising Star Symposium**” should include:

- a. A two-page description of the applicant's research line, including supporting references to his/her publications, where appropriate.
- b. Full name, address, date of birth and brief curriculum vitae of the applicant (two pages maximum), plus complete list of publications.
- c. Proof of current EASD Membership.
- d. Date and nature of the present appointment held by applicant.
- e. Letter of recommendation by the Head of the Department.

Applications should be sent as an attached Word document to:

secretariat@easd.org, to arrive not later than **31 March 2005**. Selection of the 4 speakers will be made by the EASD Scientific Programme Committee. Applicants will be informed on the outcome of their application in May 2005.

Diabetologia Best Paper Award 2003

At the 35th Executive Committee Meeting of EASD it was decided to establish an *Annual Best Paper Award* for excellence in diabetes research for manuscripts published in *Diabetologia* in a given volume. The winners were decided by the Editorial Board of *Diabetologia* and were announced at the EASD in Munich in September.

Joint winners in the Basic Science category:

T. Ferre, E. Riu, S. Franckhauser, J. Agudo, F. Bosch

Long-term overexpression of glucokinase in the liver of transgenic mice leads to insulin resistance. *Diabetologia* (2003) 46:1662–1668

M. Bogdani, V. Lefebvre, N. Buelens, T. Bock, M. Pipeleers-Marichal, P. In't Veld, D. Pipeleers

Formation of insulin-positive cells in implants of human pancreatic duct cell preparations from young donors. *Diabetologia* (2003) 46:830–838

Winners of the Clinical Science category:

B. Zethelius, L. Byberg, C. N. Hales, H. Lithell, C. Berne

Proinsulin and acute insulin response independently predict Type 2 diabetes mellitus in men – report from 27 years of follow-up study. *Diabetologia* (2003) 46:20–26

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

The Research Foundation of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

SERVIER

European Research Programme on Vascular Complications of Type 2 Diabetes Request for Applications

**The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
and SERVIER
announce up to Euro 1 Million
in Additional Funds for Research in Europe
into the Vascular Complications of Type 2 Diabetes**

Background

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) was founded in Montecatini, Italy, in 1965. In 1999, the Association created the *European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)*. The aims of EFSD are to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge and to facilitate its application.

SERVIER is a research-based pharmaceutical company with an established reputation in diabetes research, therapeutics and education. Present in 135 countries worldwide, the company is proud to maintain a number of tight long-term collaborations with key diabetes organisations.

Plan

EFSD and **SERVIER** established the **European Research Programme on Vascular Complications of Type 2 Diabetes** to encourage quality new projects aimed at advancing current knowledge in this domain. The Programme invites applications from non-profit organisations. Applications are particularly welcome for projects that aim to clarify the molecular mechanisms of such complications.

To achieve the goals and objectives of this Programme, EFSD and **SERVIER** invite applications by issuing this "Request for Applications" (RFA), which indicates joint funding as well as areas of research emphasis.

The EFSD/**SERVIER** Research Programme Grants are intended to stimulate and accelerate European research into the vascular complications of Type 2 diabetes.

In particular, the Programme seeks to support original, quality investigation into the molecular mechanisms of such complications.

Funding

Up to Euro 1 million will be made available over 3 years for research performed in Europe and its associated countries within the framework of the Programme. The grants will be distributed as follows:

- 2005 – Three grants, each of Euro 100,000**
- 2006 – Three grants, each of Euro 100,000
- 2007 – Three grants, each of Euro 100,000

Over the three years one extra grant of Euro 100,000 will be made available.

Mechanism of Support and Review

Research will be supported through the award of fixed sum grants, each of Euro 100,000. The duration of each award may be one year or longer, depending upon the needs of the project and as justified in the application, so long as the total budget does not exceed the fixed sum of Euro 100,000.

Three awards will be granted each year. Applications for an EFSD/SERVIER Research Programme Grant are invited from single non-profit institutions or groups of affiliated institutions from Europe and associated countries. Applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised ad hoc committee. Funding will require approval by a joint EFSD and SERVIER Board convened for this purpose. Anticipated dates for application review and funding approval are given in the schedule at the end of this document.

Research Grant Applications

Applications for Research Grants may be subjected to pre-review (or triage) procedures. In this event, any application rejected at pre-review will not be subject to a complete scientific review. The deadlines for receipt of Research Grant Applications are given in the schedule at the end of this document.

The budget of Research Grants for the purposes of this Programme is limited to **Euro 100,000 per annum**. All budgets are to be prepared in Euro. For countries in which the Euro is not yet the common currency, the exchange rate (between the Euro and the local currency in the country where the work is to be performed) used for calculating the Euro budget must be mentioned under "Budget Justification". EFSD and SERVIER reserve the right to increase or decrease approved funding in Euro amounts to compensate for any significant change in the exchange rate.

Application forms are available at:
foundation@easd.org

All applications must be prepared on the official forms and completed in strict accordance with the detailed instructions to be found on these forms. In particular, applicants are reminded that any pages in addition to the maximum of 10 allowed for the scientific section of the application will be deleted prior to review. Similarly, no applications using a font or line-spacing smaller than defined in the instructions will be considered for review. Additional material (in the form of an appendix, attachment, reprints, etc.) is not receivable and will not be sent to reviewers.

Applications should be submitted by **1 February 2005** (date of receipt) to:

Viktor Jörgens, M.D., Executive Director
European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
Rheindorfer Weg 3
D-40591 Düsseldorf, Germany

Review Considerations

Completed applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated below for scientific/technical merit by an appropriate scientific committee convened by EFSD.

The review criteria are as follows:

- *Significance*: Does the study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of the proposed studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- *Approach*: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- *Innovation*: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- *Investigator*: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?
- *Environment*: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- *Relevance*: A brief statement of the impact of the proposed study on the vascular complications of Type 2 diabetes. Preference will be given to applications focusing on molecular mechanisms of Type 2 complications.

Reporting Requirements

All investigators funded by this Programme are required to submit a scientific report at the end of the funding period. Investigators must provide EFSD with early notice of papers accepted for publication and must acknowledge the support of the Programme in such papers by use of the phrase: "This work was made possible by an EFSD/SERVIER Research Grant".

Competitive Renewal

Applications for renewal of a Research Programme Award will be accepted on a competitive basis, with the same review process as described in this announcement. Such applications will thus be considered in the same fashion as all other new applications received for review and without any special priority.

Schedule

Announcement:	November 2004
Application Deadline:	1 February 2005
Peer Review:	April 2005
Anticipated Award:	May 2005

Enquiries should be directed to:

Viktor Jörgens, M.D., Executive Director
European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
Rheindorfer Weg 3
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Tel.: +49-211-758469-0
Fax: +49-211-758469-29
e-mail: Foundation@easd.org

Report on an EFSD/MSD Travel Fellowship for Young Scientists 2004

Peter Reismann

Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

I spent 2 months, from 27 April to 22 June 2004, in Heidelberg, Germany supported by an EFSD/MSD Travel Fellowship. I worked in the research laboratory of Prof. Nawroth and Dr. Bierhaus, at the 1st Department of Medicine. During this time I worked on a project in connection with diabetic neuropathy, which had been started the previous year. In cooperation with Dr. Bierhaus I studied the potential effects of R-(+)-alpha-lipoic acid, a diabetes-specific antioxidant drug, on experimental diabetic neuropathy (EDN). While working on the project I learned several new methods, including:

- (i) Isolation of RNA from tissue for later use in reverse transcription (RT),
- (ii) RT of cDNA from RNA,

- (iii) Real time PCR (preparation, running, analysing),
- (iv) Transformation of bacteria with DNA (heat-shock method),
- (v) Working with bacterial cultures under S1-conditions,
- (vi) Purification of plasmid DNA from bacteria.

The results obtained will significantly add to a manuscript on the effects of R-(+)-alpha-lipoic acid on NF-kB activation and NF-kB dependent gene expression in EDN, to be submitted for publication in the near future.

Although the time I spent in Heidelberg was short, it offered me an excellent opportunity to learn new methods, which I can now transfer to our laboratory in Hungary to further intensify my scientific work.

Dr. Bierhaus regularly supervised my work, and she and her co-workers provided help whenever I needed it. Moreover, the friendly atmosphere in this lab made this travel unforgettable.

I am very grateful to EFSD and with this short report I would like to thank EFSD for its support which made it possible for me to spend such a useful and nice time in Heidelberg.

Announcements

15th Meeting of the EASD Eye Complication Study Group Coimbra, Portugal, 27–29 May 2005

Deadline for abstracts: 2 March 2005

Scientific program

- **Key note lectures on the following topics:**
Professor J. Cunha-Vaz (Portugal)
Phenotyping Diabetic Retinopathy
Professor PJ Guillausseau (France)
Does genetics influence incidence and severity of diabetic retinopathy
- **Case presentations**
- **Oral and poster presentations.**

EASDec board:

F Bandello (President), PJ Guillausseau (Vice-President), C-D Agardh (Past President), P Massin (Secretary), M Porta (Treasurer)

Scientific and Organising Committee:

J. Cunha-Vaz, J. Figueira, L. Duarte, F Bandello, PJ Guillausseau, P Massin, C-D Agardh, M Porta

For further information, please contact:

EASDec Website: www.easdec.org

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European Diabetic Nephropathy Study Group (EDNSG)

Arnhem, The Netherlands, 13–14 May 2005

All abstracts on any topic relating to diabetic nephropathy research are welcome and should be submitted by **7 January 2005** to:

Dr Roberto Trevisan, Secretary of EDNSG
U.O. Diabetologia
Ospedali Riuniti di Bergamo
Largo Barozzi 1
24128 Bergamo
Italy
Fax: +39 35 266889
E-mail: robby.trevisan@tin.it
or rtrevisan@ospedaliuniti.bergamo.it

Please submit the abstract as an e-mail attachment in a Rich Text Format (RTF) or as a Word file. If you decide to admit the abstracts by fax please remember to submit also five hard copies by post. Abstracts should be written with a breakdown in the following headings: Objective, Design, Setting, Patients, Main Outcome Measurements, Results and Conclusions. Please make sure that the length of the abstract does not exceed one side of an A4 paper, that you leave margins of 2.5 cm and that you use a font size no smaller than Times 12.

24th Scientific Meeting of the Artificial Insulin Delivery, Pancreas, Islet Transplantation (AIDPIT) Study Group of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

Igls, Austria, 23–25 January 2005

For the programme and deadlines please visit the EASD website: www.easd.org

For further information please contact:

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**75th Congress of European Atherosclerosis Society
Prague, Czech Republic, 23–26 April 2005**

All relevant information can be found at the congress website www.eas2005.cz

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International Symposium on Diabetes Complications
Toronto, Canada, 17–19 November 2004

For further information:

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