

The Federation of the European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) & The Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina

Spring Conference, Thursday 11 May 2006

Conference Hall, Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina
Emil Abderhalden-Straße 36
06108 Halle (Saale), Germany

PROGRAMME

- 8.45 Registration
- 9.00 Welcome by Prof Harald zur Hausen (Vice-President of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina and former Director of the German Cancer Centre, Heidelberg)
- 9.05 **Molecular Medicine, Quality Control and Access to Medical Care: Basics and Clinical relevance**
Chair: Prof Luigi Frati (President of FEAM and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University "La Sapienza", Rome)
- 9.05 **Molecular Biology in Medicine: Basic Aspects and Clinical Applications**
Overview by Prof Hubert Blum (Department of Medicine II, University of Freiburg)
- 9.50 **Quality Control and Access to Medical Care**
- 9.50 British perspective: Prof Stephen Harrison (Department of Applied Social Science, University of Manchester)
- 10.20 German perspective: Prof Guenter Ollenschlaeger (Director, German Agency for Quality in Medicine AQUeMed, Berlin-Charlottenburg)
- 10.50 Discussion
- 11.05 *Coffee*
- 11.25 Italian perspective: Prof Isabella Screpanti (Department of Experimental Medicine, University of La Sapienza, Rome) and Prof Paolo Villari (Preventive Medicine, Department of Health Management, University of La Sapienza, Rome)
- 12.15 Additional perspective: speaker to be confirmed
- 12.30 General discussion and formulation of the recommendations
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 **Afternoon session**
Chair: Prof Hubert Blum (Department of Medicine II, University of Freiburg)
- 14.00 **Vaccines**: Presentation of the recommendations of the EASAC report by Professor Sir Peter Lachmann FRS FMedSci (President Emeritus, FEAM and Member of the EASAC working party)
Discussion on the implementation of these recommendations
- 14.45 **Mental health care as a public health issue – priorities in Europe** by Dr Matt Muijen (Acting Regional Adviser for Mental Health, Regional Office for Europe, World Health Organization, Denmark) and discussion
- 15.30 *Tea*
- 16.00 **Avian flu**: Update by Prof Hans Klenk (Director of the Institute of Virology, University of Marburg)
- 16.30 **Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP)**: introduction by Professor Sir Peter Lachmann
- 16.45 **EU Physical Agents Directive**: formal approval of the FEAM statement (lead discussant: Prof André Govaerts)
- 16.55 **Business Meeting**
- Networking and communication in Brussels: brief update by Prof André Govaerts and discussion
 - Staff: appointment of the Executive Director
 - Finances: presentation and approval of the accounts for 2005 and the budget for 2006
 - Next Autumn Conference: date to be confirmed
- 17.45 **New topics**
- *Harmonization of compensation for personal injury within the European Union; application to case law on medical liability*: discussion on setting up a study group to look into this topic suggested by the French Academy
 - Additional topics to be confirmed
- 18.00 End of meeting – Guided tour of the "Händelhaus"
- 19.30 Dinner at the "Händelhaus"

Molecular Biology in Medicine – Basic Aspects and Clinical Application

Research in cell and molecular biology as well as recombinant DNA technology has not only revolutionized the diagnosis, the therapy and the prevention of diseases but it has in addition allowed a better understanding of the pathogenesis of human diseases. For example, it is now possible to analyze thousands of genes or proteins from a small tissue sample by DNA, RNA or protein arrays and to establish a gene and/or expression profile that is specific to the individual patient's disease. In addition, pharmacogenomics increasingly allows the prediction of desired or undesired effects of drugs in individual patients.

This scientific session will address the state-of-the-art of different basic aspects of molecular biology and their relevance to human diseases. Based on advances in our understanding of the pathogenesis of human diseases, the clinical application of modern molecular and biochemical analyses will be discussed for selected specialities in medicine (i.e., infectious diseases, oncology, cardiology), demonstrating its prognostic and predictive relevance for individual patients ("personalized medicine").

While we witness tremendous advances in the understanding of the pathogenesis of human diseases and their use for diagnosis, therapy and prevention, there is increasing evidence that individual doctors' errors are a major problem today. Its causes are human errors as well as errors of the medical establishment. This topic will be addressed in the overview and possible solutions will be discussed.