**Oskar Lapp Foundation supports cardiovascular research**

**Oskar Lapp Research Prize for Frankfurt Heart Scientists**

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**Award ceremony: from left to right Prof. Thomas Nordt, Prof. Hugo A. Katus, Prof. Martin Borggrefe, Ursula Ida Lapp, prize winner Prof. Konstantinos Stellos, Alexander Lapp (Photo: DGK/Thomas Hauss)**

Stuttgart, May 17, 2017

The Oskar Lapp Research Prize 2017 was awarded at the 83rd annual conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz und Kreislaufforschung e.V. (DGK) in Mannheim a few days ago. It was presented to Prof. Konstantinos Stellos, a cardiologist at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Hospital in Frankfurt. The award, which is endowed with EUR 12,000, is presented annually by the Oskar Lapp Foundation to young scientists who are specifically involved in cardiovascular research.

The Oskar Lapp Foundation was set up in 1992 in memory of the Stuttgart based entrepreneur Oskar Lapp who died of a heart attack thirty years ago on 25th April. Further research into cardiovascular diseases is therefore a very personal matter for the founding family. "Cardiovascular diseases are still the most common cause of death in Germany today. Better research into prophylaxis, diagnostics, therapy and rehabilitation for coronary heart disease is still needed. There's still so much to be done," says Ursula Ida Lapp about her commitment. A festive event will be held at the New Palace (Neues Schloss) in Stuttgart on 22 October 2017 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Oskar Lapp Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Stellos is a Cardiologist in the III Medical Dept./Cardiology and Group Leader at the Institute of Cardiovascular Regeneration at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. In his research, he was able to prove that the gene expression in healthy patients differs to those suffering from arteriosclerotic heart diseases. He demonstrated that cathepsin S expression, an enzyme that also enables cell migration, is controlled and increased in patients by RNA modifications. The findings obtained identify a new gene regulatory mechanism and contribute significantly to understanding the pathogenesis of arteriosclerosis. The research was published in the renowned Nature Medicine journal.

Along with the founding family, the members of the Oskar Lapp Foundation Board of Trustees are Prof. Gunther Arnold (former Director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz und Kreislaufforschung e.V.), Prof. Anton Both (retired Medical Director, Klinikum Stuttgart, Katharinenhospital), Dr. Rolf Thieringer (former first mayor of the state capital of Stuttgart), Prof. Roderich C. Thümmel (lawyer), Prof. Thomas Nordt (Medical Director, Klinikum Stuttgart, Katharinenhospital) and Konstantinos Papoutsis (Director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz und Kreislaufforschung e.V.). For donations, the Oskar Lapp Foundation's bank details are as follows: IBAN: DE68600501010002076087, BIC: SOLADEST600.

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