

Symposium in honor of Nobel Laureate Werner Arber

90th Birthday



August 28, 2019, 4.00 – 5.30 pm
followed by an apéro
Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum,
Klingelbergstrasse 50, Basel

90th Birthday

Prof. em. Werner Arber

Professor emeritus Werner Arber was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1978 for his discovery of restriction enzymes and their application in molecular genetics together with the Americans Daniel Nathans and Hamilton Smith. He is one of the founding members of the Biozentrum, University of Basel, where he started as Professor of Molecular Microbiology in 1971. He also took on important leadership roles at the University of Basel, including Rektor, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Chairman of the Biozentrum. His scientific research contributed greatly to the internationally renowned reputation of the institute. Restriction enzymes, as molecular scissors, became available for today's research in molecular genetics carried out worldwide to obtain novel insights into the functions of living organisms. This development paved also the way for various research areas at the Biozentrum. On June 3, 2019, Werner Arber turned 90 years old.

The Biozentrum invites you to a scientific symposium to celebrate the 90th birthday of Prof. em. Werner Arber, Nobel Prize Laureate 1978 and founding member of the Biozentrum, University of Basel.

Prof. Martin Jinek

Martin Jinek is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Zurich. He studied Natural Sciences at Trinity College, University of Cambridge (UK). In 2006, he earned his PhD from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg and then worked as a postdoc with Prof. Jennifer Doudna at the University of California in Berkeley. He received a Starting Grant of the ERC in 2013, and a Consolidator Grant in 2018. In 2015, he was awarded the Friedrich Miescher Award.

Jinek investigates how RNA-protein complexes control gene expression and protect bacteria from genetic intruders such as viruses. Jinek's pioneering work on the CRISPR-Cas9 system made an important contribution to the understanding of its molecular mechanisms and led to its development as a genome editing technology.

Prof. Marek Basler

Marek Basler joined the Biozentrum as an Assistant Professor of Infection Biology in 2013. He studied biochemistry and microbiology at the Institute of Chemical Technology and the Institute of Microbiology in Prague, where he received his PhD in 2007. Subsequently, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. In 2018, he was awarded the Friedrich Miescher Award and the EMBO Gold Medal.

Marek Basler studies the function of a bacterial injection apparatus, the so-called type 6 secretion system. He elucidated its molecular structure and provided important details of how bacteria use this nanosized speargun to inject a cocktail of toxic proteins into bacteria and eukaryotic cells.

Program

Welcome addresses

Prof. Alex Schier *Director of the Biozentrum, University of Basel*

Prof. Andrea Schenker-Wicki *President of the University of Basel*

The scientist Werner Arber

Prof. em. Peter Philippsen *Biozentrum, University of Basel*

Scientific program: Bacterial defense mechanisms – new findings and applications

Chair: Prof. Christoph Dehio *Biozentrum, University of Basel*

CRISPR genome editors: From bacteria to biotech

Prof. Martin Jinek *Department of Biochemistry, University of Zurich*

Structure, dynamics and function of a bacterial nanomachine

Prof. Marek Basler *Biozentrum, University of Basel*

Apéro

Please register online by August 18, 2019:

www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/symposium_arber

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