

Green light from the EU

2.9 Million Euro for cell migration research- UKE leads international project team

The European Commission has approved the joint project “Tissue Transmigration Training Network” (T3Net), which is being coordinated at the University Medical Center Hamburg- Eppendorf (UKE), and involves ca. 30 scientists from seven countries. The focus lies on research on the interaction of human cells with surrounding tissue.

“Particularly in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and cancer, a better understanding of the interplay between cells and surrounding tissue structures could enable new therapeutical approaches”, explains project leader Prof. Dr. Stefan Linder, Institute for Medical Microbiology, Virology and Hygiene, UKE. The T3Net project, which will run for four years, will be worked on in several subprojects. The results of this basic research will be brought together and coordinated at the UKE. Training of young scientists is also a major focus.

The joint project is supported by the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission in the form of an “International Training Network”. For this particular form of support, partners from different countries get together to form a consortium. T3Net will help to further consolidate the leading role of the EU in this innovative field of biomedical research.

Partner institutions of the UKE are the St. Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands), the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (France), the Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel), Excellness Biotech SA (Switzerland), King’s College London (Great Britain), the École Normale Supérieure Lyon (France), and the Consorzio Mario Negri Sud (Italy). The scientists will convene during regular annual meetings and will discuss current results.

The team had already applied in autumn of 2008 for support of the project by the EU. The granting process took more than a year. “We are very happy that it has finally succeeded”, says Linder. The project is being supported with 2.9 million Euro, and ca. 600.000 Euro will be available for the UKE. This money will be used for research and also for the project management.