

Media Release



Meggen (Switzerland), 1 December 2008

RoFAR's accomplishments – Ten cycles of research competition

With cycle X, the Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR) will conclude its valuable efforts in fostering innovative anaemia-related research.

Since 2004, the Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR) has provided grants to 61 cutting-edge research projects in 11 countries worldwide in a broad range of topics in nephrology, cardiology and oncology including the protective effect of erythropoietin (EPO) in the heart, lung, vasculature, brain and eye, hypoxic sensing, inflammation in chronic disease, gene expression and regulation in anaemia of different etiologies and hepcidin regulation. With the 10th and last cycle to be awarded in May 2009, a long period of successful research projects will be brought to its scheduled close in 2011.

By 2011 Roche will have made a contribution of nearly 20 million Swiss Francs to the scientific community through RoFAR.

The RoFAR programme has provided valuable support to researchers exploring key scientific questions. The RoFAR-supported projects have been performed with scientific excellence, and their success has been shared with the scientific community through a large number of publications, presentations and posters. RoFAR has encouraged innovative research opening up new avenues of exploration in the study of anaemia, its mechanisms and outcomes.”

The Board of Trustees and Scientific Advisory Board of RoFAR join in expressing their appreciation to Roche for its generous gift to the anaemia research community and for having had the opportunity to participate in what has been a most rewarding and worthwhile effort.

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About the Roche Foundation for Anemia Research (RoFAR)

RoFAR, an independent, scientist-led, and internationally active Medical Research Charity, has been administering an initial donation of 16 million Swiss Francs (CHF) provided by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. (Roche) in 2004. As a sign of Roche's commitment to RoFAR, a further donation of 3 million CHF was provided for 2008.

The Foundation is legally independent from Roche and is guided by a Board of eight Trustees and an independently appointed Scientific Advisory Board. RoFAR has supported groundbreaking scientific work, both basic and clinical. To date, more than 13.6 million CHF (approx. USD 12 or € 9 million) have been awarded to 61 research projects around the world. Award winners, who received grants of up to 200,000 CHF each, are currently exploring key scientific questions in nephrology, diabetology, haematology, oncology, ophthalmology, neurology and cardiology.

Applications for RoFAR grants were sought bi-annually from established members of academic staff at universities, hospitals and research centres. These were assessed by the RoFAR Scientific Advisory Board members with the objective of awarding projects that will open up new avenues of research. In addition to its regular research grant awards, RoFAR administered special grants for innovative proposals, which provide proof of principle and/or translational research, that is, studies which have potential for translation into clinical practice.