

Meggen (Switzerland), 20 May 2009

## RoFAR awards an additional 1.55 million Swiss Francs (CHF)

To enhance its already successful portfolio of innovative projects, RoFAR has awarded grants to 8 top scientists in cycle X. RoFAR's Board of Trustees is pleased that cycle X has attracted so many high quality projects which also echo RoFAR's pioneering spirit.

The 83 letters of intent submitted to cycle X reflect not only scientific excellence, but also RoFAR's mission of encouraging innovation and opening up new avenues of exploration in the study of anaemia and related areas. Since its founding in 2004, RoFAR has granted funding to 68 high-quality research projects worldwide. The 8 cycle X grants totalling approximately 1.55 million CHF (approx. 1.4 million USD or 1.0 million EUR) will support research projects in Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. These projects strive to examine key scientific questions in a diverse range of topics. RoFAR is delighted to have the opportunity to support the accomplished scientists and their ground-breaking research in cycle X.

### Cycle X grant award winners

**Dr Stephen Archer**, University of Chicago, USA

*Dysfunction of a mitochondrial oxygen sensor causes normoxic activation of HIF-1 $\alpha$  and initiates pulmonary arterial hypertension and polycythaemia in fawn-hooded rats and humans: the Warburg Effect in cardiovascular disease*

**Prof. Margaret Baron**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA

*Multispectral imaging cytometry analysis of surface protein redistribution on maturing red blood cells*

**Prof. George Daley**, Children's Hospital Boston, USA

*Defining the molecular basis of anaemia in Fanconi Anaemia*

**Dr Emma Derbyshire**, North West Food Centre / Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

*Teff (*Eragrostis tef*) as a functional food for the prevention of pregnancy iron-deficiency anaemia*

**Prof. Agnes Fogo**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, USA

*Erythropoietin effects on capillary growth and regression of sclerosis*

**Prof. Max Gassmann**, Vetsuisse, University of Zurich, Switzerland

*EPO's impact on cognitive and learning processes in men and mice*

**Dr Iqbal Hamza**, University of Maryland, College Park, USA

*Functional genomics by genome-wide RNAi of haem homeostasis in animals*

**Prof. Lois Smith**, Children's Hospital Boston, USA

*The role of erythropoietin in retinopathy*

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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. RoFAR expects to conclude its activities in 2011 when all the grants awarded will be completed.

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 14.9 million CHF (approx. USD 13.5 or € 10 million) have been awarded to 68 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.