



Prof. Dr. H. Chica Schaller

A partner in the multiple ventures successfully undertaken by the Schallers, Chica began her career as a linguist. However, inspired by the spirit of discovery, she decided to become a scientist and soon gained international recognition for her achievements in developmental neurobiology. Among her accomplishments was her role in helping to establish the Centre for Molecular Neurobiology in Hamburg.

A key part of Chica's legacy will be the support provided for talented young scientists, especially young women in science for whom Chica serves as inspiration.



Prof. Dr. Heinz Schaller

Heinz Schaller was a pioneer of modern molecular biology. He was the driving force in the creation of the Centre for Molecular Biology in Heidelberg, a visionary institution that served as a model for other institutions subsequently built in Germany, such as the Gene Centre in Munich and the Centre for Molecular Neurology in Hamburg.

His first scientific breakthrough was the synthesis of the pentanucleotides with defined sequences in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Gobind Khorana, Wisconsin. This laid the foundation for decoding the genetic code. Other scientific contributions included the identification of the Escherichia coli DNA polymerase III, the Pribnow-Schaller-Box in bacterial promoter elements, and replication and infection mechanisms of Hepatitis B virus. Heinz also had the vision to translate his ground-breaking research on infectious agents into new therapies. He had the natural talent to recruit and train young scientists most of whom went on to become distinguished scientists.

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Scientific images on courtesy of Infectious Diseases Imaging Platform (IDIP), Center for Integrative Infectious Disease Research (CIID) as well as Lirong Wang and Zheng Gan, Institute of Pharmacology, Heidelberg University.



Chica and Heinz Schaller in Paris, 1959.

Chica and Heinz Schaller's legacy continues today in the form of the Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation (www.chs-stiftung.org). The Foundation is dedicated to furthering the careers of talented biomedical scientists at Heidelberg University and in related research institutions in the vicinity. Emphasis is placed on supporting junior scientists at key career stages and in promoting women in science. One major focus of the Foundation is the nurturing of "Schaller Research Groups". This multi-year program provides a flexible funding package to cover both start-up and direct research costs for independent research groups. Schaller Long- and Short-Term Fellowships are a funding opportunity available to non-tenured group leaders to provide bridging support until qualification for tenured position. The Foundation also promotes meetings, seminars and workshops for biomedical sciences organized in Heidelberg and vicinity.

The kingpins of the Foundation activities comprise awards for significant achievements in biomedical sciences at diverse career stages, including:

- The Annual Chica and Heinz Schaller Research Award
- The Interdisciplinary Center for Neurosciences (IZN)/Schaller Young investigator Neuroscience Award
- The Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Award for Distinguished Achievements in Virology (in collaboration with the German Society of Virology, GfV)
- The Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Award in Translational Neuroscience (in collaboration with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies, FENS)

Through the Memorial Conference 2024, the Foundation would like to honor the vision of Chica and Heinz Schaller and celebrate outstanding science by bringing together top-notch researchers in the fields of virology and neuroscience.

Let's keep the spirit of Chica and Heinz Schaller alive!

Chica & Heinz SCHALLER MEMORIAL CONFERENCE 2024

JUNE
20th & 21st
2024

MARRIOTT Hotel,
Heidelberg

Vangerowstrasse 16, 69115 Heidelberg



Chica and Heinz
Schaller Foundation



For the
Advancement of
Biomedical Research

Program 20th of June 2024

- 11:30** **Registration and lunch**
- 12:30** **Welcome from the Foundation**
Rohini Kuner
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University
- Greeting from the Dean of Medicine**
Michael Boutros
 Dean of Medical Faculty Heidelberg, Heidelberg University
- 12:45** **'Fighting HBV with the weapons of our immune system'**
Chair: Ralf Bartenschlager
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Ulrike Protzer
 Institute of Virology, Technical University of Munich/Helmholtz, Munich
- 13:35** **'Exploring the prion life cycle by forward genetics'**
Chair: Karoly Nikolich
 CHS Foundation and Stanford University
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Adriano Aguzzi
 Institute of Neuropathology, University of Zürich, Switzerland
- 14:25** **'Development and evolution of the human neocortex – neural stem cells, human-specific genes, and humanspecific protein variants'**
Chair: Hannah Monyer
 DKFZ and Heidelberg University
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Wieland B. Huttner
 Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden
- 15:15** **Coffee break**
- 15:40** **'The social lives of viruses: brain tropism acquisition by a measles virus collective infectious unit'**
Chair: Stephan Urban
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University,
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Roberto Cattaneo
 Department of Molecular Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA
- 16:30** **Schaller Group Leaders: News hot off the press**
Chair: Heike Tost
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University

- 'HEV persistence along the gut-liver axis'**
Viet Loan Dao Thi
'Decoding structural and functional plasticity of astrocyte mitochondria in the brain'
Amit Agarwal
'The choroid plexus and non-cell autonomous brain regulation'
Annarita Patrizi

- 17:30** **'MHC class II as novel entry receptor of influenza A viruses'**
Chair: Stephan Becker
 CHS Foundation and University of Marburg, Speaker introduction
Speaker: Silke Stertz
 Institute of Medical Virology, University of Zürich, Switzerland

Session closes at 18.15

Program 21th of June 2024

- 09:00** **Welcome coffee**
- 09:15** **'Using cerebral organoids to uncover human-specific mechanisms of brain development'**
Chair: Thomas Kuner
 Heidelberg University
 Speaker introduction
Speaker: Jürgen Knoblich
 Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, IMBA - Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna, Austria
- 10:00** **'Adventures in Science, from Start-up to global Biopharmaceutical Company, from Immunology to Virology'**
Chair: Hans-Georg Kräusslich
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Jochen G. Salfeld
 Vice President Virology Discovery Research & AbbVie R&D Cures Office, Worcester, USA
- 10:50** **Coffee break**
- 11:25** **'How brain blood flow and myelin contribute to early Alzheimer's disease'**
Chair: Klaus-Armin Nave
 CHS Foundation and MPI Göttingen
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: David Attwell
 University College London, Division of Biosciences, UK

- 12:15** **Schaller Group Leaders: News hot off the press**
Chair: Gudrun Rappold,
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University
- 'Spatial organization of influenza A virus segmented genome during Infection'**
Petr Chlanda
'Insights into HIV-1 latency and persistence'
Frauke Mücksch
'Linking presynaptic properties to circuit function and behavior'
Claudio Acuna Goycolea
- 13:15** **Lunch break**
- 14:15** **'Mending a broken heart: Mechanisms and approaches of cardiac repair'**
Chair: Bernd Bukau
 Heidelberg University
 Reminiscences and speaker introduction
Speaker: Stefan Offermanns
 Department of Pharmacology, Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Bad Nauheim
- 15:05** **'Life in the lab? Engineering a synthetic model cell with RNA origami'**
Chair: Michael Knop
 CHS Foundation and Heidelberg University
 Speaker introduction
Speaker: Kerstin Göpflich
 Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg
- 15:50** **Coffee break**
- 16:20** **'Elephant Neurobiology'**
Chair: Andreas Draguhn
 Heidelberg University
 Speaker introduction
Speaker: Michael Brecht
 Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience Berlin - Institute for Biology, Humboldt University, Berlin
- 17:05** **Journeys of CHS awardees:**
Chair: Tobias Dick, DKFZ
Speaker: Oliver Fackler
 Heidelberg University
Speaker: Ana M. M. Oliveira,
 Central Institute of Mental Health and Heidelberg University

Session closes at 18.05, meeting ends

