



03. December 2017

MTZ®-MPI-Award 2016: postponed by love to 04.01.2017

This year's awardees Dr. Jyoti Rao and Dr. Urs Langen married each other on the planned date

Can you imagine a more beautiful reason to postpone an award ceremony? Probably not! On December 8th 2016, the planned date for the annual ceremony of the MTZ-MPI-Award, Jyoti Rao and Urs Langen celebrated their own ceremony: in New Delhi, Jyoti Rao's origin, they married each other.

For that reason, the award ceremony will take place at January 4th 2017. It will start at 4 pm in the auditorium of the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine. The awardees Dr. Jyoti Rao and Dr. Urs Langen will explain their works in short eligible presentations (in English). The laudations will be held by PD Dr. Boris Greber and Prof. Dr. Ralf Adams. The founding couple Monika and Thomas Zimmermann will hand over the certificates. After the ceremony, at approximately 4:45 pm, there will be a reception with the opportunity to congratulate the awardees - both to the award and their wedding.

The awardees got to know each other at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine. Dr. Jyoti Rao finished her doctoral thesis on the differentiation of cardiac muscle cells from embryonic stem cells in the lab of PD Dr. Boris Greber. Dr. Urs Langen completed his doctoral thesis on blood vessels in bone during development in the department of Prof. Dr. Ralf Adams.

On top of these ceremonies, the MTZ®foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary these months. With five awards of the MTZ®foundation promote the young scientific excellence that pushes forward disease research and drug development into new dimensions with groundbreaking research findings. To this extend, the MTZ®foundation has chosen highly recognized and long-standing institutes and universities and their excellent scientific junior talents. In this way, the founding couple Monika and Thomas Zimmermann wants to foster young persons in their scientific career. Ever since 2009, the MTZ®foundation distinguishes young scientists at the MPI for Molecular Biomedicine with the MTZ®-MPI-Award on a yearly basis. The award prize is endowed with 2,500 Euros.

Invitation to the ceremony for the MTZ®-MPI-Award 2016:

You are cordially invited to the award ceremony. The awardees Dr. Jyoti Rao and Dr. Urs Langen will explain their works in short eligible presentations (in English). The laudations will be held by PD Dr. Boris Greber and Prof. Dr. Ralf Adams. The founding couple Monika and Thomas Zimmermann will hand over the certificates. After the ceremony, at approximately 4:45 pm, there will be a reception with the opportunity to speak to Monika Zimmermann and Thomas Zimmermann of the MTZ®foundation.

Date and time: 04. January 2017, 4:00 pm
Venue: Auditorium, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine
Röntgenstraße 20, 48149 Münster

Below you will find detailed information on the two awardees.

Further information on the award winning works is available on the website: [MTZ®-MPI-Award 2016](#)

Contact:

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Awardees MTZ®-MPI-Award 2016

In two steps towards cardiac tissue

Dr. Jyoti Rao



Cardiac tissue generated from pluripotent stem cells is gaining increasingly in importance. At that, scientists aim to simulate the natural processes in the early embryo. Insights from developmental studies give them clues of which genes are playing a role in these processes. Yet, it remained largely unknown how the differentiation process into cardiac tissue is controlled. Dr. Jyoti Rao from the research group of PD Dr. Boris Greber at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine deciphered this mechanism in human cells. Especially in the application of cardiac cells derived from patients' cells for disease research and drug discovery, these results are of high importance.

Jyoti Rao did her Bachelor degree in Zoology and her Masters degree in Genetics at the University of Delhi, India. She came to the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine to do her PhD under the supervision of PD Dr. Boris Greber, group leader of the Human Stem Cell Pluripotency Laboratory. She was awarded several poster prizes at scientific conferences. Jyoti Rao is first author on three peer-reviewed articles – the most prominent featuring in Cell Stem Cell – and co-author also on three scientific articles. In January 2017, Jyoti Rao will start her postdoc training at the laboratory of Olivier Pourqu e at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute in Boston, USA.

Detailed information: [In two steps towards cardiac tissue](#)

Bone-jarring job for endothelial cells

Dr. Urs Langen



The characterization of bone is technically difficult and, accordingly, very little is known about the exact mechanisms coupling bone growth and blood vessel formation. In a team of scientists around Ralf H. Adams of the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Dr. Urs Langen has overcome these difficulties and developed staining techniques for bone specimens. Thereby, the scientists discovered a new type of blood vessels in the skeletal system that promotes bone formation. This opens new perspectives for the therapy of disorders with defective bone formation.

Urs Langen studied Biochemistry at the University of T bingen in Germany. For his PhD studies, he joined the Department of Tissue Morphogenesis of Prof. Dr. Ralf Adams at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine. Urs Langen is author or co-author of three manuscripts that are published or under revision. He will continue his scientific career as a postdoc in the laboratory of Chenghua Gu in the Department of Neurobiology at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA.

Detailed information: [Bone-jarring job for endothelial cells](#)