

The President's Lecture

In October 2004, the International Council created a new distinguished lecture, named The President's Lecture, which will be a highlight of ISHR World Congresses and Section meetings.

The President's Lecture will be held at each World Congress of the ISHR and, in non-Congress years, at the annual meeting of one of the 3 largest ISHR Sections on a rotating basis. This lecture is intended to be a high profile event and will be scheduled as a keynote plenary lecture. The International Council will select the speaker. **The topic of the lecture will be in the field of molecular biology, genetics, genomics or proteomics, but the content should be chosen to be of broad interest to the cardiovascular community.** The speaker will be reimbursed for travel expenses, and will receive a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. A photograph and biosketch of the speaker will be published in *Heart News and Views*, and will be posted in the ISHR website.

The President's Lecture will enhance the content of the ISHR scientific meetings by providing a high-quality presentation in a topical area that is not covered by other distinguished lecture awards, and reflects the continuing growth of the ISHR as a professional Society.

This award is funded by a generous donation from **Roberto Bolli, MD**, Winner of the ISHR 2004 Research Achievement Award, who declined to collect the monetary prize associated with the Award and requested that it be used for this purpose.



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ISHR

International Society for Heart Research

The President's Lecture 2008



Honored Speaker

Gerd Hasenfuss, M.D.

**"Stem Cells for Cardiac
Regeneration - Dream or
Therapeutic Option "**

Gerd Hasenfuss, M.D.

2008 Honored Speaker

Yokohama, Japan



Dr. Gerd Hasenfuss is Professor of Medicine, Chief and Chair of the Department of Cardiology and Pneumology and Chief of the Heart Center at the University of Goettingen in Germany. He is active as a clinical cardiologist, researcher and teacher and has won several teaching awards. Dr. Hasenfuss received his MD from the University of Freiburg, Germany, in 1981, and finished his clinical training in internal medicine and cardiology in 1988. Thereafter, he became a visiting professor at the Department of Physiology and Molecular Biophysics at the University of Vermont and worked together with Dr. Norman Alpert. He obtained his *venia legendi* (Habilitation) from the University of Freiburg in 1990. From 1994 -1998 he had a Heisenberg Fellowship of the German Research Foundation.

Dr. Hasenfuss's main research interest is the pathophysiology and treatment of heart failure, including both basic research as well as clinical studies in patients. Within the field of heart failure, he began his research career with studies on

cardiac energetics and the energetic consequences of inotropic treatment interventions. A particular focus has been studies on excitation-contraction coupling and contractile protein function in isolated failing and non-failing human myocardium. His studies in isolated myocardium, as well as in patients, showed that frequency-potential of contractile performance (force-frequency relation) is absent or inverted in the failing human heart. In subsequent studies, he and his group showed that the altered force-frequency relation results from disturbed excitation-contraction coupling due to loss of frequency-dependent upregulation of sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) calcium content. The latter could be attributed to a decreased expression of sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium pump (SERCA), increased expression of the sarcolemmal sodium-calcium exchanger and increased SR leak. To develop new therapeutic options to treat heart failure, he recently focused his scientific interest onto stem cell cardiology. In search of adult multipotent stem cells, his group discovered the spermatogonial stem cell of mouse testis as an embryonic stem cell-like pluripotent cell. Dr. Hasenfuss and his group showed that spermatogonial stem cells or multipotent adult germ line stem cells have the potential to differentiate into all three germ layers; cardiac differentiation occurred *in vivo* and under *in vitro* conditions. Currently, the group is searching for culture conditions to transfer the technique to human tissue.

Dr. Hasenfuss is a Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research, the American Heart Association and the European Society of Cardi-

ology. He has received several research awards, and is a member of the Academy of Science of Goettingen, Germany. He is a member of >10 editorial boards, including *Circulation* and *Circulation Research*, and is an Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Heart Failure*. Dr. Hasenfuss serves on the Review Board of the German Research Foundation (Fachkolleg). He is member of the leadership committee of the Basic Cardiovascular Science Council of the American Heart Association as a European liaison, a member of the Board of Heart Failure Association and a member of the Basic Cardiovascular Science Council of the European Society of Cardiology. Dr. Hasenfuss is organizing several national and international research networks including EUGeneHeart.

Previous Award Winners.....

Dr. Mark Sussman Toronto, 2006

"Akt/PKB and Me: Our Nuclear Relationship"

Dr. Jeffrey Robbins Bologna, 2007

"Genetic Manipulation of the Mammalian Heart: What Have We Learned?"