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Press release

13 December 2012

Eight acclaimed scientists appointed as members of ERC Scientific Council

The European Commission has today appointed eight new members for the Scientific Council, the governing body of the European Research Council (ERC). This is part of a staged renewal of the Scientific Council, which starts early 2013. The term of office of the new members will run till the close of 2013, when the EU Seventh Research Framework Programme ends.

The new members are

- Prof. Klaus BOCK, Danish National Research Foundation
- Prof. Athene DONALD, University of Cambridge
- Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Istituto Superiore di Sanità
- Prof. Nuria Sebastian GALLES, University of Pompeu Fabra
- Prof. Reinhard GENZEL - Max Planck Institute for Extra-terrestrial Physics
- Prof. Matthias KLEINER, German Research Foundation
- Prof. Éva KONDOROSI, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, KU Leuven

President of the ERC Professor Helga Nowotny said: *"The renewal of one third of the Scientific Council members comes at a crucial moment as we prepare for the transition to 'Horizon 2020'. We face a continuous rise in demand, especially from talented younger researchers throughout Europe, while the prospects of the future budget remain highly uncertain. Together with my colleagues, I welcome the eight new members who will join us next year. I am convinced that their enthusiasm, expertise and new ideas will build upon and strengthen the legacy of the outgoing founding members. Welcoming the new members also means saying farewell to those leaving. We are all indebted to them for their unconditional commitment and energy with which they pursued our shared vision to establish the ERC as the first-rate funding agency for excellent frontier research in Europe. The experience of working together has been truly unique - and the Scientific Council will continue its mission in the same spirit."*



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The newly-appointed members have been identified by the independent standing ERC Identification Committee, composed of six high-level scientists and scholars. The scientific community was consulted during this identification process.

The ERC Scientific Council is composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars, and was partially renewed in 2011. With today's European Commission decision, one third of the members are being replaced. Next year's outgoing members are Professors Claudio Bordignon, Mathias Dewatripont, Hans-Joachim Freund, Norbert Kroo, Maria Teresa Lago, Henrietta L. Moore, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard and Jens Rostrup-Nielsen.

Note to the editors

The **European Research Council** (ERC) is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC - consisting of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency - was set up by the EU under the Seventh Framework Programme (the "Ideas" specific programme). It has a total budget of € 7.5 billion (2007-2013). Last year, the European Commission proposed a substantial increase in the ERC's budget for 2014 to 2020 under the new Framework Programme ('Horizon 2020').

The **Scientific Council**, the ERC's governing body, defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and acts on behalf of the scientific community in Europe to promote creativity and innovative research. Presently chaired by Prof. Helga Nowotny, it is composed of 22 eminent researchers, including some Nobel Prize winners. They represent the whole European research community. The Scientific Council meets five times a year in Brussels and other European locations. The next meetings are going to be held in Brussels (28-30 January 2013), Brussels (18-20 March 2013) and Bratislava (17-19 June 2013). The Scientific Council was established by the European Commission in July 2005 and the ERC was launched on 2 February 2007.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/956&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

New ERC Scientific Council members are appointed by the Commission, on the recommendations of an Identification Committee, following an independent and transparent procedure for their identification. This includes a consultation of the scientific community. Members are identified on the basis of the criteria set out in the Commission Decision establishing the ERC of 2 February 2007 (2007/134/EC, Annex I).

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_057/l_05720070224en00140019.pdf

The current Identification Committee, appointed by the European Commission in September 2010, is chaired by Prof. Eero Vuorio, Director of Biocenter Finland.

http://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/erc_pr_2010_identification_committee_0.pdf

The founding members of the Scientific Council were appointed by an earlier Identification Committee chaired by Lord Patten of Barnes.



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Biographies of the new Scientific Council members

Prof. Klaus Bock

Klaus Bock was born in 1944 and has a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark (1968) and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the same university (1970). He was Associate Professor in Organic Chemistry at the Technical University of Denmark from 1970 to 1988. From 1988, he was appointed head and professor of the Chemistry Department at the Carlsberg Laboratory, from 1992 he was Head of Research at Carlsberg Research Centre and from 2001 to 2007 Executive Vice President for Research of Carlsberg A/S. He has published 260 papers in international journals and served as a referee in the areas of analytical and synthetic carbohydrate chemistry with special emphasis of the application of NMR spectroscopy in structural studies of carbohydrate derivatives and their interaction with enzymes. His latest interests focus upon protein-carbohydrate interactions, particularly the synthesis and structural analysis of glycopeptides. He received the International Carbohydrate Award in honour of Roy L. Whistler in 1986, the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in 1992 and the Samuel Friedman Foundation Rescue Award presented by UCLA in 2006. From 2004 to 2012 he was Chairman of the Danish National Research Foundation, from 2005 to 2013 he served as Deputy Chairman of the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation and President of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences between 2009 and 2011. From 2010 he has also been a member of the Standing Selection Committee for the Network of Centres of Excellence in Canada, and he is Champion of Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2014 to be held in Copenhagen.

Prof. Athene Donald

Athene Donald completed her first and second degrees in Physics at the University of Cambridge. After four years of postdoctoral research at Cornell University in the USA, she returned to Cambridge where she has been ever since, becoming a Professor in 1998. Her field of research is soft matter and biological physics, inherently interdisciplinary work, which means that she maintains close links with disciplines beyond physics. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1999 and currently serves on their Council and is Chair of their Education Committee. She has worked with and served on a number of committees of two of the UK's Research Councils (BBSRC and EPSRC) and is currently a Trustee of the Science Museum in London. She was elected to Academia Europaea in 2009. She has won numerous prizes during her career, including the 2009 L'Oreal/UNESCO for Women in Science Laureate for Europe, and was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2010.

Dr. Barbara Ensoli

Barbara Ensoli, M.D., Ph.D., graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialised in Clinical Immunology and Allergy at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". She then spent more than 11 years at the National Institute of Health (Bethesda, US), working at the National Cancer Institute. During those years she elucidated the role of the HIV-1 Tat protein in HIV pathogenesis and AIDS-associated tumours. Her current research interests are HIV pathogenesis and the development of HIV/AIDS preventative and therapeutic vaccines, which are currently in advanced clinical phase. She has coordinated several international and national research programs in Europe and developing countries. Among them, the EU-funded "AIDS Vaccine Integrated Project" (AVIP) and the "Program to support the Ministry of Health of South Africa in the implementation of a national program of global response to HIV & AIDS" (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), which is currently ongoing. She is a member of the WHO-UNAIDS Vaccine Advisory Committee and the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). She is the Vice-President of the National AIDS Committee of the Italian Ministry of Health and Member of the Editorial Board of the Health Status Report 2011 (RSSP), Ministry of Health (2012). She sits on the editorial boards of *Lancet Oncology*, *PLoS ONE*, *The Open AIDS Journals*, *Tumor Viruses*, *Vaccine: Development and Therapy*, *Journal of Clinical & Cellular Immunology*, *Advances in Tumor Virology*. She has received several national and international scientific awards and she has been appointed as *Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana* in 2001 by the President of the Italian Republic. Her scientific activities have resulted in more than 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals.



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Prof. Núria Sebastián Gallés

Núria Sebastián Gallés received her PhD in Experimental Psychology at the University of Barcelona in 1986. After Post-doctoral training at the Max Planck Institute and the CNRS in Paris, she was appointed Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology (University of Barcelona) in 1988, where she was promoted to Full Professor in 2002. In 2009, she moved to the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. She has been Visiting Scholar at several research centres, including the IRCS at University of Pennsylvania, the ICN at the University College (London) and at the University of Chicago. She has received international recognition as shown by a James S. McDonnell Foundation Award (“Bridging Mind, Brain and Behavior” Program) in 2001 and by giving the prestigious Nijmegen Lectures in 2005. In 2009, she was also awarded the ICREA Academia Prize established by the Catalan Government. In 2012 she received the Narcis Monturiol Medal in recognition of her scientific contributions. She was member of the advisory group of the 'Brain and Learning' initiative of the OECD (2002 to 2006). Until Dec. 2012, she is president of the European Society of Cognitive Psychology. She is the coordinator of a Consolider-Ingenio 2010 research consortium investigating Bilingualism and Cognitive Neuroscience (BRAINGLOT), integrating six interdisciplinary research groups (including linguists, psychologists, physicists etc). She is currently Associate Editor of *Developmental Science*, Editor of the *Language Learning Cognitive Neuroscience Series* and member of numerous editorial boards including *Bilingualism*, *Language and Cognition* and *Language Learning and Development*. At the Center for Brain and Cognition (UPF), she leads the SAP Research Group (Speech Acquisition and Processing) (<http://www.sap.upf.edu/>). Her current work focuses on the study of learning and language processing with a special emphasis on bilingual populations. Research in her laboratory extends from infants to adults with methodologies that are based on behavioural as well as physiological and brain imaging responses.

Prof. Reinhard Genzel

With a PhD in physics and astronomy from the University of Bonn (DE), Reinhard Genzel is a distinguished researcher in the area of infrared astronomy. At present, he is Director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (Germany), Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society and Full Professor in the Physics & Astronomy Departments at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). He has received numerous awards and honours in the past, such as the Crafoord Prize in Astronomy from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in (2012) and Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation (1990) amongst others. He has also delivered many prize lectures across the world. Professor Genzel is a member of several academic societies, such as Leopoldina, the US National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London (foreign member). He serves as a reviewer for a host of acclaimed international academic publications. Moreover, he is a member of several Visiting Committees and is an Honorary Professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. His main research interests include for instance massive black holes and galaxy evolution.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kleiner

President of the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Prof. Matthias Kleiner completed his habilitation in the field of forming technology in 1991. Three years later, he joined the faculty of the newly founded Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus as Professor of Forming Technology as the Chair in Design and Manufacturing. In 1997, Professor Kleiner was awarded the DFG's Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, the most prestigious prize in German research. In 1998, Professor Kleiner moved to the Technical University Dortmund, where he holds the Chair of Forming Technology. From 2004 to 2006, he served as Managing Director of the newly established Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL). He has played an instrumental role in a number of international and, above all, interdisciplinary research projects and research networks. He is a member of numerous international professional committees and academies. In 2011, he co-chaired the German “Ethics Commission for a Safe Energy Supply”. Professor Kleiner was elected President of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in 2007. His six year term of office as President of the DFG ends on December 31st, 2012. From January 2013, he will be head of the Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL) at the University of Dortmund.



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Prof. Eva Kondorosi

Eva Kondorosi was born in Budapest, graduated (Biology) and received her PhD (Genetics) at the L. Eötvös University in Budapest. She was postdoc at the Max Planck Institut für Züchtungsforschung (Köln) and visiting scholar at the Sussex, Harvard and Cornell Universities. She was the founding director of the BAYGEN Institute (2007-2012) which is now part of the Biological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Szeged where she directs the Symbiosis and Functional Genomics Unit. She has also been a founding member of the Institut des Science Végétales CNRS in Gif sur Yvette (FR) as one of the first research directors and group leaders. Her primary research field is Rhizobium-legume symbiosis with recent focus on the plant controlled differentiation of bacteria. For her original discoveries she received several awards including the Széchenyi and the IS-MPML awards in 2012. She is a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and member of Academia Europaea, the European Molecular Biology Organization and the Board of Directors at the International Society of Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.

Prof. Dr. Reinhilde Veugelers

Reinhilde Veugelers is full professor at KU Leuven (BE) in the Faculty of Economics and Business, where she teaches international business economics and game theory. From 2004 to 2008 she was on academic leave, as advisor at the European Commission (BEPA Bureau of European Policy Analysis). She is currently Senior Fellow at Bruegel, CEPR Research Fellow and member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences. She was the President-Elect of EARIE (European Association for Research in Industrial Economics), is currently the President of Belgian FNS-FNRS Scientific Committee on Social Sciences and serves on the ERC panel for SH1 Advanced and Starting Grants. She is a member of the Innovation4Growth Expert Group advising EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn. She is also co-promoting ECOOM, the Flemish Center for R&D Monitoring. She was a visiting scholar at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Sloan School of Management, MIT, Stern Business School, NYU (US), UCL (BE), ECARES/ULBrussels, (BE) Paris I (FR) UPF and UAB-Barcelona (ES), UMaastrecht (NL). With her research concentrated on industrial organisation, international economics and strategy, innovation and science, she has authored numerous publications in leading international journals. Her research combines analytical frameworks, using micro-economics, game theory and economics of information models, with empirical (mostly econometric) testing on large datasets. Recent topics include incentives for innovation activities, international technology transfers through MNEs, impact on local R&D of multinational competition, internal and external technology-sourcing, alliances and their stability, inter-company technology transfers through cooperation, young innovative companies, industry science links and their impact on firm's innovative productivity, performance of technology transfer offices at universities, designing university spin-off contracts, explaining scientific productivity: persistency and skewness, researchers' international mobility. She coordinates a large, multidisciplinary research project on radical innovations. Recent policy topics include: university governance and higher education reforms, young radical innovators, innovation policy indicators, innovation strategies for emerging countries and innovation for climate change.

Links

- [ERC website](#)
- [More on the ERC Scientific Council](#)

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