



**Press release**

12 April 2011

**New Vice Presidents for the European Research Council**

**The Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) has today confirmed the election of Professors Carl-Henrik Heldin and Pavel Exner as new ERC Vice Presidents. Their term of office runs until the end of the seventh Framework Programme for Research (December 2013).**

Both Vice Presidents are founding members of the ERC Scientific Council. Pavel Exner, a Czech national, is the scientific director and a professor at the Doppler Institute for Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics, Prague. Carl-Henrik Heldin, a Swedish national, is the Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala, and a professor at Uppsala University.

They are succeeding Professor Helga Nowotny, who became ERC President in March 2010, and Dr. Daniel Estève, whose term as Vice President expired.

ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny commented: "The Scientific Council has elected two of its members whose rich experience and energetic dedication augur well for the future evolution of the ERC. This comes at a time when the Scientific Council has partially renewed its membership and I am glad to have such a great team to work with. I should also like to thank Dr. Daniel Estève, who remains a Scientific Council member, for his dedicated work as Vice President."

The Scientific Council is the body responsible for setting the scientific strategy of the ERC.



## Note to the Editors

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the **European Research Council** 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 also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. It funds both senior research leaders ('ERC Advanced Grants') and younger, early-career top researchers ('ERC Starting Grants'). The substantial funding is awarded based on peer review evaluation. The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. The ERC, which is the newest, pioneering component of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme ('Ideas' Specific Programme), has a total budget of €7.5 billion from 2007 to 2013.

The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and acts on behalf of the scientific community in Europe to promote creativity and innovative research. It is presently chaired by Prof. Helga Nowotny and is composed of 22 eminent scientists and scholars, including some Nobel Prize winners.

## Biographies

### **Prof. Pavel EXNER**

Current position: Scientific Director, Doppler Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Born 1946 in Prague, Pavel Exner graduated in 1969 from the Charles University. From 1978 to 1990 he worked in Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, where he got his PhD and DSc degrees. Later he was a leader of a research team in Czech Academy of Sciences and taught theoretical physics as a professor at the Charles University. Now he heads Doppler Institute for Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics in Prague. Interested in mathematical methods related to quantum systems, in particular, quantum waveguides and graphs, unstable systems and solvable models. Author of three books and more than 180 research papers, cofounder of the QMath conference series. Awarded JINR prize in theoretical physics and Czech Physical Society medal, member of Academia Europaea. At present he serves as the president of the International Association for Mathematical Physics, formerly vice-president of the European Mathematical Society and of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

<http://gemma.ujf.cas.cz/~exner/>

### **Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN**

Current position: Director and Professor in Molecular Cell Biology, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala, Sweden

C.-H. Heldin is since 1986 the Branch Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Uppsala, Sweden, and since 1992 also professor in Molecular Cell Biology at Uppsala University. He was born in 1952, and obtained a PhD degree in Medical and Physiological Chemistry in 1980 at the University of Uppsala, where he continued to work until 1985 using a position sponsored by the Swedish Cancer Society. His research interest is related to the mechanisms of signal transduction by growth regulatory factors, as well as their normal function and role in disease. In particular, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), a major mitogen for connective tissue cells, and transforming growth factor- $\alpha$  (TGF- $\alpha$ ), which inhibits the growth of most cell types, are studied. An important goal is to explore the possible clinical utility of signal transduction antagonists. C.-H. Heldin is a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Academia Europaea. He serves or has



served on the Scientific Advisory Boards for several companies and academic institutions, including the German Cancer Center, Heidelberg, Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, and European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg. He is currently on the Board for the Swedish Research Councils, and serves as Senior Editor for Cancer Research and Associate Editor for Molecular Biology of the Cell, Genes to Cells and Growth Factors. C.-H. Heldin has received several scientific awards, including Prix Antoine Lacassagne (1989), K. Fernströms Large Medical Prize (1993) and the Pezcoller-American Association for Cancer Research Award (2002).

[www.licr.uu.se](http://www.licr.uu.se).

#### **Links**

ERC website <http://erc.europa.eu>

Scientific Council members <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=172>

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