

Prof. Stefan Bittner receives Hertie Foundation medMS MyLab Research Funding



Prof. Stefan Bittner has been granted research funding within the framework of the medMS MyLab program of the Hertie Foundation for a new multi-year research project whose goal is to examine new mechanisms involved in neuronal degeneration in multiple sclerosis. Multiple sclerosis is an autoimmune disease of the brain, caused by an immune system-mediated damage of neurons. Current therapies have only limited effect on neuronal cell death, which correlates best with progressive disabilities in affected patients. The focus of the project will be put on newly discovered signalling pathways of

immune cell-neuron-interaction and their potential therapeutic value. Prof. Bittner is senior physician at the Department of Neurology of the University Medical Center Mainz and is head of a research group for experimental neuroimmunology. A major focus of his work is the combination of fundamental biological research and clinical care of patients with multiple sclerosis.

The Hertie Foundation aims to support young clinician scientists in the field of MS research as well as strengthen its position as a German MS-supporting institution. To this end, the medMS project was launched in 2016 and is aimed at, among other things, scientifically active physicians who can apply for funds through the integrated Hertie MyLab program in order to focus on their research. It ultimately aims to support the development of their skills as a clinician scientist through independent, high-level research. With an average funding budget of nine million euros per year, the Hertie Foundation is the biggest private funding body supporting brain research in Germany, and the third largest in Europe. In the area of multiple sclerosis, the foundation is the leading funding institution both for MS research and self-help for MS sufferers.