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Preisverleihung des Robert Bing-Preises 1982 anlässlich des First World Congress of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) am 1. April 1982 in Lausanne

EROEFFNUNGSANSPRACHE DES PRAESIDENTEN DER AKADEMIE
HERRN PROF. DR. A. CERLETTI

Monsieur le Conseiller d'Etat,

Monsieur le Recteur et Monsieur le Doyen de la faculté de médecine de l'Université de Lausanne,

Messieurs les lauréats,

Chers collègues,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Au nom de l'Académie Suisse des Sciences Médicales j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de vous saluer tous et de donner une bienvenue spéciale à Madame et Monsieur Matthieu, Madame et Monsieur Steck, Madame et Monsieur de Tribolet. Nous nous sommes réunis pour délivrer le Prix Robert Bing 1982 à trois chercheurs-cliniciens qui tous travaillent ici à Lausanne. Ce fait me semble manifester une influence du génie local spécifiquement favorable pour la recherche neurobiologique, une constatation soulignée aussi par l'initiative courageuse des neurobiologistes lausannois, d'organiser le premier Congrès mondial IBRO dans cette ville universitaire. Nous sommes très reconnaissants aux organisateurs d'ainsi nous prêter le cadre extraordinaire pour notre cérémonie. En tant que geste d'hommage à ces circonstances locales j'ai donc voulu faire usage de la langue maternelle de nos lauréats pour l'ouverture de notre séance avant de me transférer maintenant sur le terrain de la "lingua franca" qui domine ces dernières décades de notre siècle.

Dear Recipients of the Bing Prize

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After these introductory remarks in French as a modest tribute to the local genius, let me first offer you some background information on the Robert Bing Prize awarded every 2-3

years by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences to outstanding investigators in the neurological sciences. Robert Bing started his medical career at the beginning of this century, graduating 1901 in Basle at the age of 23. Prepared and inspired by masters like the physiologist Munck in Berlin, the neurosurgeon Horsley in London and especially the neurologists Babinski and Déjérine in Paris, he began after the return to Basle his pioneering clinical and research work in neurology. Already before the outbreak of the first World War he published a comprehensive textbook, whose fame subsequently spread Bing's name all over the world by nine reeditions and by translations in altogether seven languages, including Russian. An American journal of that time qualified Bing as "one of the most lucid writers in medical literature". Although in this respect a recognized scientific world citizen, Bing had to struggle very hard against local odds and shortsightedness which denied him all along his lifetime the possibility of establishing a neurology department. Undoubtedly it emerged from such personal experiences that in the legacy to the Swiss Academy, Bing has stressed as main purpose of the award not primarily the recognition of scientific merits but much more the encouragement of scientists to continue with their research efforts ("Autoren zu weiterer Forschung ermutigen").

Today it is for the twelfth time since 1958 that our Academy is fulfilling the founder's last will by awarding the Robert Bing Prize 1982 to three scientists. And I guess that Bing would be especially pleased by the fact that the expert committee of our Academy could select and propose for this Prize three candidates which all combine high clinical competence with outstanding research activities, thus fitting especially well the testamentary criterion of "hervorragende Arbeiten, welche Erkennung, Behandlung und Heilung der Nervenkrankheiten gefördert haben".

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that this year's Bing Prize consists of the sum of 60'000.- Swiss francs to be attributed in equal parts to the three recipients.

May I now continue by asking Dres. Matthieu, Steck and de Tribolet to proceed.

I am honoured to present to you and to the audience the following wording of the laudation:

The Senate of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences is honoured to award the

ROBERT BING PRIZE 1982

to the following scientists for their work in clinical research:

DR. JEAN MARIE MATTHIEU, CHUV, LAUSANNE

whose scientific investigations have been devoted to research in myelin biochemistry and to problems of hereditary neurological disorders in mutant mice. This work promises to have important applications, in particular, to our understanding of multiple sclerosis and the hereditary neuropathies in man.

DR. ANDREAS STECK, CHUV, LAUSANNE

who studied the interrelationship of neurochemistry, viral infections and autoimmunity. The results of his work are important for the better understanding of etiology and pathogenetic mechanisms of putative autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system, such as acute disseminated encephalomyelitis and multiple sclerosis.

DR. NICOLAS DE TRIBOLET, CHUV, LAUSANNE

whose main research has been directed towards the understanding of one of the most malignant tumours in man, namely glioblastoma multiforme. He has cultured cell lines of this tumour and prepared conventional antiserum and monoclonal antibodies to these cells. These studies have paved the way for new experimental and therapeutic approaches.

Basle, 1st april 1982

In the name of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences

Prof. Dr. A. Cerletti
President

Prof. Dr. J. Girard
secretary-general

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now have the privilege to listen to a short outline of the research work performed by the prize winners and I would like to call as first speaker Dr. Matthieu.

