



CAMPUS INNENSTADT

INSTITUT FÜR PROPHYLAXE UND
EPIDEMIOLOGIE DER KREISLAUFKRANKHEITEN



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Direktor:
Prof. Dr. med. C. Weber

Nominating Committee Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science

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Unser Zeichen:

Munich, May 10, 2016

Letter of Motivation

Dear members of the Council and Nominating Committee, dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is a great privilege to be nominated as a candidate for the Chair-elect of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science. As a clinician scientist, I have throughout my professional career experienced and appreciated the pivotal contribution, impact and value that a strong basic science program and focus will exert on any successful translational development in cardiovascular medicine. Ultimately and most importantly, this impact will continue to represent an essential and driving force for achieving clinical progress and benefit that we aspire for all our patients and ageing societies in general. This motivation and goal should remain at the centre of the Chair-elect's and Council's attention.

Both at a national and an international level, interactive and cooperative networking has been at the heart of my scientific strategy. For instance, I have been coordinating a Munich partner site in the German Cardiovascular Research Centre (DZHK) and a collaborative research centre (CRC1123) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), which has promoted a 60% female proportion in board leadership. Beyond this, I hold a professorship in two European countries (LMU Munich and Maastricht University) and have coordinated an international European cardiovascular graduate school (EUCAR), as well as a Leducq transatlantic network of excellence (TNE), all with an emphasis on therapeutic target evaluation and drug development and eventually personalized medicine exploiting genetic evidence. In addition, I have been honoured to benefit from the shared European Research Council funding schemes with two advanced grants.

Other experience that could serve as a model for promoting private and publically funded initiatives encompasses the successfully establishment of two biopharmaceutical companies, that I have the privilege to accompany based on intellectual property generated in the basic science track. In terms of dissemination, it has been my pleasure to act as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Thrombosis and Haemostasis, which is a scientific organ affiliated with two ESC working groups, and as the European Senior Associated Editor of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, activities that could be further explored to the benefit and integrated into the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science.

Direktor: Prof. Dr. med. Christian Weber

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Vorstand: Ärztlicher Direktor: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Karl-Walter Jauch (Vorsitz), Kaufmännischer Direktor: Gerd Koslowski,
Pflegedirektorin: Helle Dokken, Vertreter der Medizinischen Fakultät: Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hinkel (Dekan)
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To foster similar developments in basic and translational research and education in the context of the ESC would be my utmost motivation and aim to pursue. To support young and hopeful clinicians and scientists alike, this should build on the ESC Cardiologists of Tomorrow framework. In addition, it will be an important goal to provide continuity of the activities already in place and initiated by Profs. Casadei and Badimon, i.e. in interacting with other European societies and organizations for pan-European initiatives (e.g. Task Force and Council on Stroke), in further developing new collaborative and evidence-based Good Clinical Practice guidelines (GCP) for clinical trials along the lines of the EU clinical trial directive, in increasing the female representation in the ESC, and in advocating for a focused ESC strategy in education, clinical practice and shared funding of working groups in the Horizon 2020 scheme.

Based on these considerations, I would be most honoured, if I would be granted the opportunity to implement and offer my experience to the service of the Council of Basic Cardiovascular Science.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Weber', written in a cursive style.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christian Weber

Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Christian Weber, MD, FESC

Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention, Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU), Munich, Germany

Education & Degrees

1986 - 1993	Medical School, Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU), Munich
1994	MD thesis at LMU Munich ('summa cum laude')
1999	Facultas docendi and Venia legendi in Experimental Medicine
2003 - 2004	Board Certification in Internal Medicine and Cardiology

Professional Career

1993 - 1994	Internship in Internal Medicine, Dept. Cardiovascular Medicine, LMU Munich
1995 - 1997	Postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Blood Research, Harvard Medical School
1997 - 2001	Fellow in Internal Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, LMU Munich
2001 - 2005	Associate Professor (C3) for Molecular Cardiovascular Research and Fellow, Dept. Cardiology, RWTH University Hospital Aachen
2004 - 2005	Offers for Chairs in Cardiology, University of Virginia and King's College London
2005 - 2010	Chair (W3) and Director, Institute for Molecular Cardiovascular Research (IMCAR), Preventive Cardiology, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen
2006 - present	Professor at Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht (CARIM) & Director, Maastricht Centre for Atherosclerosis Research (M-CAR), Maastricht University
2007 - 2014	Spokesman, DFG Centre Grant FOR809 <i>Chemokines in Vascular Pathology</i>
2008 - 2010	Spokesman, DFG International Graduate School GRK1508 <i>Arterial Remodeling</i>
2010 - present	Chair of Vascular Medicine, Director Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention, LMU
2010 - present	Co-Spokesman Munich Heart Alliance, German Centre for Cardiovascular Research
2014 - present	Spokesman of the DFG Collaborative Research Centre 1123 <i>Atherosclerosis</i>

Honours and Activities

2003	GlaxoSmithKline Basic Research Award, Fellow European Society of Cardiology
2004 - 2005	Arthur-Weber-Award, German Cardiac Society & Forßmann-Award
2007 - 2008	President, Society of Microcirculation & Vascular Biology (GfMVB)
2007 - present	Co-Founder and SAB <i>Carolus Therapeutics Inc.</i>
2008	Paul-Martini-Award & ESC Outstanding Achievement Award
2008 - 2011	Scientific Committee Member, European Atherosclerosis Society
2009	Galenus-von-Pergamon-Prize & AHA Special Recognition Award Arteriosclerosis
2010	ERC Advanced Grant Atheroprotect, VICI Award by NWO - The Netherlands
2012	Co-President, International Vascular Biology Meeting IVBM 2012, Wiesbaden
2012 - 2014	Chair, ESC Working Group for Atherosclerosis & Vascular Biology
2015	Alexander Schmidt-Award, Society for Thrombosis & Haemostasis Research
2016	ERC Advanced Grant PROVASC

Editorial Boards	Thrombosis & Haemostasis (Editor-in-Chief), Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis & Vascular Biology (Senior Associate Editor), Circulation Research (Consulting Editor), Mol Metabolism (European Editor), EMBO Mol Med, Eur Heart Journal
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Bibliography	>460 original articles & review articles, plenary lectures at Gordon & Keystone conferences, cumulative IF >3.300, citations >24.000, h-index 82, m-index 3.3
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Important Publications

1. Ostermann G, Weber KSC, Zerneck A, Schröder A, **Weber C**. JAM-1 is a ligand for the $\beta 2$ integrin LFA-1 involved in transendothelial migration of leukocytes. *Nature Immunol.* 2002;3:151-158.
2. Bernhagen J et al. & **Weber C**. MIF is a non-cognate ligand of CXC chemokine receptors in inflammatory and atherogenic cell recruitment. *Nature Med.* 2007;13:587-96.
3. Koenen RR et al. & **Weber C**. Disrupting functional interactions between platelet chemokines inhibits atherosclerosis in hyperlipidemic mice. *Nature Med.* 2009;15:97-103.
4. Zerneck A et al. & **Weber C**. Delivery of microRNA-126 by apoptotic bodies induces CXCL12-dependent vascular protection. *Science Signal.* 2009;2:ra81.
5. Schober A et al. & **Weber C** (2014) MicroRNA-126-5p promotes endothelial proliferation and limits atherosclerosis by suppressing Dlk1. *Nature Med.* 2014;20:368-376.

Funding History

1995 – 1997	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Scholarship WE1913/1-1
1997 – 2001	Head of DFG Junior Research Group in Biomedical Sciences WE1913/2-1&2
1999 – 2001	DFG GRK-438 <i>Vascular Biology in Medicine</i> , Project A1
2002 – 2004	DFG Project Grant WE1913/2-3 (<i>Integrin function in atherogenic recruitment</i>)
2003 – 2006	DFG Project Grant WE1913/5-1&2 (<i>Functional role of platelet chemokines</i>)
2004 – 2007	DFG Project Grant BE1977/2-1 (<i>MIF in atherosclerosis</i> , with Dr. J. Bernhagen)
2004 - 2007	DFG Project Grant WE1913/7-1&2 (<i>SDF-1 and vascular progenitor cells</i>)
2005 - 2011	DFG SFB542, Project C12 (<i>YB-1 & RANTES expression</i> , with Dr. P. Mertens)
2006 - 2009	DFG Project Grant WE 1913/9-1&2 (<i>JAM-A in inflammation / atherosclerosis</i>)
2007 - 2010	DFG Program Grant FOR809 <i>Chemokines in Vascular Pathology</i> (Spokesman)
2008 - 2009	DFG Project Grant WE 1913/13-1 (<i>Metalloprotease function in inflammation</i>)
2008 - 2011	DFG SFB542, Project A7 (<i>MIF and glomerulonephritis</i> , with Dr. J. Bernhagen)
2008 - 2011	DFG SFB542, Project A12 (<i>Metalloprotease function</i> , with Dr. A. Ludwig)
2009 - 2011	DFG Excellence Initiative Molecular Science & Engineering MSE06
2008 - 2012	DFG TRR57, Project P7 (<i>MIF receptors in organ fibrosis</i> , with Dr. H. Wasmuth)
2009 - 2013	DFG European Graduate School GRK1508 <i>Arterial Remodeling</i> (Spokesman)
2009 - 2015	European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant ^o 292494 <i>Atheroprotect</i>
2010 - 2015	VICI Grant, Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)
2010 - 2016	Leducq Transatlantic Network of Excellence (European Coordinator)
2011 - 2014	DFG Program Grant FOR809 <i>Chemokines in Vascular Pathology</i> (Spokesman)
2011 - 2019	BMBF German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), MHA VD 1.2
2012 - 2019	DFG SFB914, Project B8 (<i>Monocytes in atherosclerosis</i> , with Dr. O. Soehnlein)
2013 - 2016	DFG SFB1054, Project B4 (<i>Dendritic cell and T-cell plasticity in atherosclerosis</i>)
2014 - 2018	DFG SFB1123 on <i>Atherosclerosis</i> , Projects A1, B4, Z3 (Coordinator)
2016 - 2022	ERC Advanced Grant ^o 692511 <i>PROVASC</i>

Total funding	German Research Foundation (DFG)	approx. 18 Mio. €
	BMBF, ERC, NWO, Leducq, Industry, etc.	approx. 16 Mio. €

Biosketch

Christian Weber is the Chair in Vascular Medicine and the Director of the Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention at Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich, Germany, since 2010. After graduating and completing his training in internal medicine at LMU and Harvard Medical School, Boston, he was board-certified in clinical cardiology and appointed as a Chair in Molecular Cardiology at RWTH Aachen University. As a Dutch VICI laureate, he continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor at the Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht (CARIM) at Maastricht University. His group has a strong interest in the molecular interactions and pathophysiological functions of chemokines and immune cell subsets, as well as the role of microRNAs and their targets in vascular disease, namely atherosclerosis, while his clinical interests are focused on developing novel biomarkers and peptide-based biopharmaceuticals. He is the Spokesman of the DFG Collaborative Research Centre SFB1123 and coordinates the partner site Munich Heart Alliance in the German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK). Among many other awards, he is a double ERC Advanced Investigator Grant recipient with more than 460 publications and an h-index of 82. He serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Thrombosis & Haemostasis*, Senior Associate Editor of *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis & Vascular Biology* and is the co-founder of *Carolus Therapeutics Inc.*