

Press Information, November 21, 2025

## How Lipids and Chaotic Proteins Control Life: Berlin Honors Volker Haucke and Agnes Toth-Petroczy

On November 24, 2025, Berlin will be at the center of the life sciences map, as the Schering Stiftung awards both the Ernst Schering Prize, which for the first time goes to a Berlin-based scientist, and its inaugural Schering Young Investigator Award.

Prof. Volker Haucke, winner of the 2025 Ernst Schering Prize, has revolutionized our understanding of cellular signal processing. His research on signaling lipids shows how neuronal cells communicate with each other – with far-reaching consequences for the treatment of strokes, cancer, or neurodegenerative diseases. In addition, he sets new standards when it comes to sustainable research: In 2021, his lab at the Leibniz Research Institute for Molecular Pharmacology (FMP) became the first in Germany to receive the “My Green Lab” certification.

“I will use the prize money specifically to develop new agents – for example, to treat stroke consequences and inherited myopathies. Modern-day AI methods and computer-based models make it possible to efficiently analyze complex biological data and identify promising candidate agents more quickly,” said Haucke.

Dr. Agnes Toth-Petroczy from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden studies previously little understood intrinsically disordered proteins that account for about 30 percent of the human proteome. Using computer-based models, she analyzes how proteins evolve, organize themselves, and how protein synthesis errors can lead to diseases.

“My research studies the basic principles of proteins, but if we better understand their functions, we may be able to better understand disease mechanisms, prevention, and treatment. It is very important for me to engage young people and show them how science works in everyday life,” said the recipient of the Schering Young Investigator Award.

Prof. Dr. Max Löhning, Chairman of the Foundation Council of the Schering Stiftung, commended the winners, saying: “Both laureates stand for excellence, curiosity, and courage. Their research shows that creative basic research is the key to medical progress. This is an excellent fit with our name giver Ernst Schering, a pioneer in the research-based pharmaceutical industry in Germany.”

Dr. Ina Czyborra, Berlin’s Senator for Science, added: “Biomedical research shows in particularly impressive ways how far our scientific curiosity can take us. It opens new perspectives on the mechanisms of life and lays the foundations for new therapeutic approaches. The works honored today show the close connection between scientific progress and effective health care – and how precise research contributes to the continual evolution of diagnostics and therapies.”

The Ernst Schering Prize comes with a monetary award of EUR 50,000. The new 10,000-euro Schering Young Investigator Award continues the Schering Stiftung’s support for early-career scientists and succeeds the Friedmund Neumann Prize, which was awarded by the foundation from 2012 to 2024.

### Award Ceremony:

**Monday, November 24, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Leibniz Hall

Lectures: Volker Haucke – *Lipid Control of Membrane Dynamics in Health and Disease (in German)* | Agnes Toth-Petroczy – *Disordered Proteins in Evolution and Disease*

Registration required at: [miarka@scheringstiftung.de](mailto:miarka@scheringstiftung.de)

### Further Information

This press information and images of the laureates Volker Haucke and Agnes Toth-Petroczy can be found at <https://scheringstiftung.de/de/presse/>. Press photos of the award ceremony will also be available at this site after November 24, 9:00 p.m.

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