

Nomination Dr. Tuula Heinonen as the recipient of the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award 2014

At its Annual Board Meeting January 16, 2014, Stockholm, Björn Ekwall Memorial Foundation (BEMF) nominated Dr. Tuula Heinonen from Finland as the recipient of the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award 2014.



Dr. Tuula Heinonen

Dr. Tuula Heinonen (Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Director of FICAM) from the School of Medicine, University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland has been nominated for the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award in recognition of her achievements in promotion and implementation of alternative methods by developing human cell based tissue/organ models, as well as by establishing the Finnish Centre for Alternative Methods (FICAM).

Dr. Heinonen defended her PhD thesis in 1982 in the field of toxicology, at the University of Turku; in 1984 she became adjunct professor in toxicology at the University of Turku and in 1993 adjunct professor in biochemistry at the University of Helsinki. Dr. Heinonen has worked as scientist at the Institute of Occupational Health (1979-83) and as toxicologist and in leading research positions in pharmaceutical industry (1983-2007). The special areas of Dr. Heinonen are toxicological risk evaluation and regulatory toxicology. She has worked at School of Medicine, University of Tampere from 2007 on first at Cell Research Centre, and after the establishment of FICAM in 2008 as director of it. Dr. Heinonen and her group develop human cell based tissue models for biomedical research and toxicology. The focus of Dr. Heinonen is on the development

and validation of better methods for the prediction of human effects by using human cell based tissue models and tests instead of animal experiments. The first validated model developed by Dr Heinonen's group is angiogenesis model applicable for both biomedical and toxicological purposes.

Dr. Heinonen has developed FICAM to a high-level research laboratory with an official GLP-status and ability to function in method validations coordinated by EURL-ECVAM (European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing). The staff of FICAM (about 20) consists of professors, senior scientists, doctoral students and technicians. In addition to research Dr. Heinonen will educate scientists by organising high level courses on alternative methods in FICAM and by giving lectures also in other universities in Finland.

Dr. Heinonen is member of several international and national expert groups and the Finnish representative in the PARERE (Preliminary Assessment of Regulatory Relevance) network in EU. She has been the President of the Finnish Society of Toxicology (FST) 1998-2000. In 2010 she became the President of the Scandinavian Society for Cell Toxicology (SSCT). She is Vice President of the European Consensus Platform for Alternatives (ECOPA), President of the Finnish Consensus Platform for Alternatives (FINCOPA), and European Registered Toxicologist (ERT).

Dr. Heinonen is Associate Editor of "Frontiers in Toxicology" (from 2010 on), Guest Editor of Toxicology *in Vitro* Special Issue 2013, and reviewer in several toxicological journals. Her list of publications includes thirty articles in peer reviewed scientific Journals, and dozens of pharmaceutical study reports.

The BEM award is handed out to Dr. Tuula Heinonen in the 9th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences 24-28.08.2014 in Prague where she will give also the BEM-lecture.

Hanna Tähti, FICAM

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The membership for an individual member for 2014 is € 30.00. If you are also a member of one of the affiliated societies (CellTOX, SSCT, INVITROM, IVTS), the membership amount to € 18.00.

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Laura Suter-Dick

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ESTIV e-mail list

ESTIV has an e-mail list, which has the potential to be a very valuable resource. There are many types of questions that you could pose to the list, whether you are a junior or a senior scientist. To send a message to all ESTIV members on the list (presently more than 200 colleagues), simply address your e-mail to estiv@freelists.org

This is a "closed" list, which means the "list-owner" (Elsa Casimiro) is able to select who is allowed to join. Only ESTIV members will receive the message. However, please note that this list should not be used to send confidential messages or attachments as these are uploaded to the 'freelists' archive that can be accessed by the general public. If you have never received a message from the ESTIV list, it is because you have not informed us of your e-mail address. Please correct this by sending a message to me at secretariat@estiv.org and your name will be added.

Elsa Casimiro

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