

Background information and goals of the stem cell congress Kaliningrad 2018

(Introduction of the program)

This international symposium on stem cell research in the sense of current haematopoietic stem cell technology and therapy takes place on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the discovery and description of the haematopoietic stem cell by the pathologist Ernst Neumann at the former University of Königsberg (today: Kaliningrad). He was the first medical scientist and pathologist to postulate the bone marrow as a haematopoietic organ. The "lymphoid marrow cell" first described by him in Königsberg in 1868 later corresponded to the "large lymphocyte" and the "stem cell" of the Russian researcher Alexander Maximov in St. Petersburg in 1909. Both Russian and German scientists were advocates of unitarianism, according to which all blood cells develop from a post-embryonic haematopoietic stem cell. Despite strong resistance, they paved the way for today's understanding of bone marrow as a haematopoietic organ. In recognition of Ernst Neumann's considerable scientific achievements, this anniversary event offers an excellent opportunity for critical appraisal of what has been achieved and highlights the tradition of cooperation

Today, stem cell research has become an integral part of therapeutic options in haematology, oncology and immunology, including its use in autologous and allogeneic blood stem cell transplants. Indications and methods are constantly evolving. Therefore, we will discuss with our partners and colleagues from various relevant German and Russian institutions both the historical aspects of the discovery of bone marrow and the current trends in haematopoietic stem cell research and therapy.

We look forward to the participation of international experts in the field of haematology, scientists with clinical experience or from medical centres and medical universities. We also welcome the interest of younger scientists and students from EU member states and Russia.

Prof. Dr med. Dr h.c. mult. Helmut Hahn
President, Koch-Metschnikow Forum e.V.

Prof Dr Andrei Klemeshev
Rector of the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University