



Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Konrad Beyreuther is Founding Director of the Network Aging Research (NAR), Heidelberg University, Germany. His interest is in human brain function, Alzheimer's disease (AD), aging, and systems gerontology. Formerly Professor for Molecular Biology and Director of the Center of Molecular Biology (ZMBH), and Dean, Faculty of Biology, he holds a Senior Professorship at Heidelberg University. From 2001-2006 he was as State Secretary for Life Sciences, member and scientific advisor of the government of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. He is best known for his pioneering work on AD. In 1984, Konrad Beyreuther and his Australian colleague Colin L. Masters purified and sequenced the amyloid constituent of the plaque in Alzheimer's disease, and three years later, their group used this sequence to clone the gene encoding the A β amyloid peptide located on chromosome 21. These studies demonstrated that the A β amyloid was derived by proteolytic cleavage of a neuronal transmembrane receptor. Subsequent studies by many groups have shown that a variety of A β -amyloid oligomers lie at the center of AD pathogenesis, and these are now the validated primary targets for both diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. Masters and Beyreuther therefore defined the principal molecular and genetic pathways leading to the current A β amyloid theory of causation of Alzheimer's disease.

Beyreuther's current research interest is the natural history of amyloid production in Alzheimer's disease. His aim is to apply quantitative mechanistic approaches to understanding the quantities and rates of A β amyloid production, accumulation and clearance to derive novel and more rational insights into developing rational therapeutic strategies.

Beyreuther has been awarded numerous accolades for his accomplishments in scientific research and university teaching, including the prestigious Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 2004), the Merit of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (Landesverdienstorden des Landes Baden-Württemberg, 2014), the 1990 Potamkin Prize from the American Academy of Neurology, the 1989 Feldberg Preis, the 1991 MetLife Foundation Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer's Disease, the 1991 Prix de Fondation IPSEN pour la Recherche Thérapeutique la Maladie d'Alzheimer & les Démences Senile, the 1991 Max-Planck Research prize for scientific cooperation, the 1995 Klaus-Joachim-Zuelch-Prize for Neurology, the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in 1997, the Alzheimer's Association's Lifetime Achievements Award in 2002, the Lenox K. Black International Prize for Excellence in Medicine in 2006, and the Hartwig Piepenbrock-DZNE Prize in 2011. He is a recipient of the Honorary Doctor in Medicine from University of Kuopio, Finland, and member of EMBO, the Heidelberg Academy for the Humanities and Sciences and the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Beyreuther's list of publications (>350 papers) comprises more than 250 contributions about the molecular biology of Alzheimer's Disease and related neurodegenerations.

Seminar at CCB (Innrain 80), 8th October, 2018; 5 pm, Room M.01.470:

'Alzheimer Dementia as Protein Folding Disease - Consequences for Prevention and Therapy'

Sponsored by:

