

SULM President Award 2008

Andreas Huber

Under SULM byelaws the purpose of the SULM President Award is to honour young upcoming Swiss scientists with outstanding careers in the field of Laboratory Medicine. The prize is awarded at least every four years during SwissMedLab or another by SULM-organised event. From a handful of candidates and applicants the board of SULM has chosen to split this year's prize and honour two individuals.

The first award winner selected by the SULM board is PD Dr med. Mirjam Christ-Crain, a young physician and scientist who grew up in Basel, where she also studied medicine at the University. After spending time in Vienna she returned to graduate as MD at the University of Basel. Her postgraduate training included internship and residency at different departments of Basel University hospital and a training period in the UK. Her training was rounded off with an FMH title in endocrinology and diabetology. Having started scientific activities during her early training years, she soon began to publish papers in highly respected journals on topics chiefly concerning the clinical and laboratory aspects of endocrine functions and hormones. Most impressive have been her most recent studies on procalcitonin and its role in optimising patient care and clinical outcome. These papers afford an outstanding example of how relatively simple laboratory tests can dramatically influence patients' treatment. Four years ago Ms Christ was appointed PD (Privatdozent = lecturer) by the University of Basel. She now works as an assistant medical director in the Department of Medicine Division of Endocrinology and Diabetology at the University of Basel. Ms Christ has published over 65 original papers and many reviews, letters, case studies and other reports. She has collected more than 200 impact points and more than 1200 scientific citations. SULM is proud to award its prestigious prize to Ms Christ and looks forward to many years of research activities on her part, hopefully in the

form of outcome studies involving laboratory testing.

PD Dr. med. Lorenz Risch from Vaduz (Liechtenstein) attended medical school at the University of Bern, completing his training in medicine with an MD. Mr Risch was appointed PD (Privatdozent = lecturer) by the University of Innsbruck in the fields of clinical chemistry und laboratory medicine.

Mr Risch received his post-doctoral training at Zürich University Hospital, Kantonsspital Aarau, the Landeskrankenhaus Feldkirch (Austria) and the University Hospital of Bern. At the Kantonsspital Aarau he held the post of assistant medical director. His training was completed with an FAMH title, an FMH title in Internal Medicine and the Austrian title of Medical Specialist. Most recently, Mr Risch completed his studies at Harvard University, Boston, with the title of Master of Public Health. Mr Risch currently works in his father's laboratory enterprise. Starting scientific activities in his early years, his main interests were and still are in the field of basic and speciality translational sciences in the field of Laboratory Medicine. He has published in many prestigious journals and accumulated more than 230 impact points and 1000 scientific citations. His contributions in the field of Laboratory Medicine are such that the board of SULM is proud to honour Mr Risch with this year's SULM President Award. We hope that his professional activities will continue to be a rich source of scientific studies in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

Roland Richterich award

The purpose of the Roland Richterich Medal is to honour retired distinguished personalities who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of Laboratory Medicine in Switzerland. From the many suitable candidates the board of SULM has chosen Prof. Dr. med. Claude Bachmann, formerly Director of the Clinical Chemistry Division at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV). Claude Bachmann has served on many scientific boards, the Swiss Academy of Sci-

ences (SAMW) Laboratory Commission as President, the FAMH Committee of Experts and the Training Programme in Laboratory for Physicians (FAPL). Claude Bachmann has been an outstanding teacher renowned for his rigorous, direct and fair attitude. Claude Bachmann has influenced Swiss Laboratory Medicine in many ways. As the second recipient of the medal the SULM Board honours Prof. Dr. med. Alexander Von Graevenitz. Originally from Leipzig, he has spent many years at different institutions in Germany, the United States (Yale University) and, finally, from 1979 in Zürich. As the head of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Zürich, he had an outstanding scientific career but was also closely involved in the support of young Laboratory Medicine candidates (FAMH). He was instrumental in launching training programmes in microbiology and also for quality control. SULM expresses warmest gratitude to Alexander Von Graevenitz for the untiring work and empathy he has brought to promoting his chosen discipline. The third and last award winner is Ms Carla Piffaretti. Carla Piffaretti worked as a Chief Technician in a large hospital complex in northwestern Switzerland (Kantonsspital Baselland). In addition to her professional activities she has always played an active role in laboratory technician development in Switzerland. She has served on many Labmed boards and was vice-president of the school commission of the Labmed Higher Technical School. In all her activities she has fought for high quality education with strict but fair criteria and careful selection of candidates. The laboratory community in Switzerland holds Ms Piffaretti's many activities in the highest esteem, and SULM is honoured to award her the Roland Richterich Medal.

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