

International Tinnitus Research Conference of the Tinnitus Research Initiative in Regensburg

From March 14.-16.2018 the 11th TRI international Tinnitus Conference took place in Regensburg. Conference was organized by the Tinnitus Research Initiative foundation in cooperation with the TINNET Action, funded by the EU within the framework of the COST program, and the German Tinnitus Research Initiative.

Prof. Berthold Langguth, Founding Director and Chief Physician at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the University of Regensburg, welcomed around 300 international scientists from various disciplines that correlate with the interdisciplinary field of tinnitus research as well as the leading physicians in the field of tinnitus treatment. As a representative of the ENT Clinic of the University Hospital Regensburg, Prof. Christoph Bohr addressed a greeting to the participants.

With his keynote lecture "Can Cochlear Implants be a Cure for Tinnitus?" Tobias Kleinjung opened the scientific part of the event, where the most important results of tinnitus research of recent years were presented under the motto "Disruptive Innovations in Tinnitus".

In the forefront of the international tinnitus conference, the participants of the research project "European School for Interdisciplinary Tinnitus Research" (ESIT), funded by the EU and managed by the University of Regensburg, met for a pre-conference and several workshops. Within ESIT, 15 PhD students will be trained at 11 European institutions and will be introduced to the international ranks of tinnitus researchers. In the three-year training course, new research methods will be used, the first genetic studies on tinnitus will be carried out, and the largest pan-European tinnitus dataset will be set up. The goal is to create the basis for individualized and evidence-based tinnitus treatment. The first works presented in the so-called ESIT corner of the conference aroused the interest of the scientific audience.

In addition to three travel grants awarded by the TRI, two poster presentations were awarded at the conference. Jorge Simoes, University of Regensburg, received the award for his poster "Bayesian Inference for Treatment Outcomes in Tinnitus" as the one "most likely to influence current practice". The jury, under the direction of Prof. Ana Belén Elgoyhen, Argentina, awarded the prize for the poster most likely to increase the understanding of tinnitus mechanisms to Anusha Mohan, a doctoral student at the University of Texas in Dallas, USA, for her poster "Distress-dependent temporal binding of regions encoding disorder-specific and disorder-general behavior manifestations of phantom percepts".

The goal of the Tinnitus Research Initiative, founded in Regensburg by leading tinnitus researchers in 2006, is to find effective treatments for the different types of tinnitus. Twelve years later, the Tinnitus Research Initiative was back in Regensburg, and much has happened in tinnitus research since then. More scientists are currently working on this topic, insights have been gained, many diagnostic and treatment approaches have been developed, and strong networks have been established - but there is still no universal treatment for all types of tinnitus.

Supporters of the International Tinnitus Conference as well as of the pre-conference seminar, were – amongst others – the Regensburger University Foundation Hans Vielberth and the German Research Foundation.