



Universität
Basel

Research Project

DF / Prix Schellenberg / Arber

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Organisation / Research unit

Departement Biozentrum / Cell Biology (Arber)

Department

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Status Completed

Press release

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Paraplegia – Award of the Schellenberg Research Prize

Swiss Women Share 2005 Prize

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Geneva and Lausanne, 12th September 2005 – **The 2005 Schellenberg Research Prize was awarded today to two Swiss researchers: Professor Silvia Arber, who teaches at the University of Basel, and Professor Brigitte Schürch of Zurich University. Professor Arber's fundamental research has excited great interest among the scientific community while Professor Shürch's work has initiated new therapies. The two winners will share the Sfrs. 100'000 prize, enabling them to continue their researches.**

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As a neurobiologist specialising in embryonic development, Professor Arber's basic research has improved understanding of the mechanisms governing the establishment of neural circuitry in the spinal cord which controls reflex movements. Professor Schürch is a neuro-urologist attached to the University Centre of Balgrist which is dedicated to the treatment of paraplegics. She has distinguished herself by proposing effective treatments for urinary problems frequently associated with this pathology. The Prize is awarded annually by the IRP Foundation – International Institute for Research into Paraplegia with the aim of supporting research into this incapacitating condition, the result of spinal fracture and the very limited healing ability of the spinal cord. For this reason, paraplegia is still, at the present time, incurable. The 2005 Schellenberg Prize will be officially presented in Geneva on 23rd November, 2005 during a public ceremony at the Jeantet Medical Foundation. The award winners have been designated by the IRP Foundation's Council on the advice of a jury presided by Dr Jean-Jacques Dreifuss, Honorary Professor at Geneva University. [*End of press release*]

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