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PRESS RELEASE

The Hertie Foundation and FENS award the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize to Julijana Gjorgjieva

Frankfurt/Brussels, 13 July 2021. **The non-profit Hertie Foundation and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) are delighted to announce the winner of the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize 2021: Prof. Dr Julijana Gjorgjieva (37) receives the EUR 100,000 award for her scientific achievement in the field of theoretical neuroscience. The Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize is awarded every two years to outstanding young scientists in brain research.**

Julijana Gjorgjieva is Professor of Computational Neurosciences at the School of Life Sciences at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and a Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt. Her work focuses on the decoding mechanisms in the processing of sensory signals and the development of the relevant neuronal networks.

“With the help of her models, Prof. Gjorgjieva has discovered important principles which regulate the self-organisation of neuronal networks during development,” explains Dr Astrid Proksch, Managing Director of the non-profit Hertie Foundation. “With the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize, we would like to lend further support to her outstanding work and promote her scientific career.”

Julijana Gjorgjieva on her award: “I am honoured and truly grateful for this prize, which I owe to the members of my lab, our collaborators and my mentors.”

The Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize – named after the American neuroscientist and Nobel laureate Eric Kandel – will be awarded on 23 September 2021 in St. Paul’s Church in Frankfurt. Prof. Kandel will personally present the prize to Julijana Gjorgjieva. This is the seventh time that the Hertie Foundation and FENS have awarded the prize of EUR 100,000, of which EUR 50,000 are earmarked for the establishment of a scientific cooperation relationship. The award also includes an invitation to deliver the Eric Kandel Prize Lecture at the FENS Forum, which will take place in Paris in July 2022.

Prof. Jean-Antoine Girault, President of FENS: “On behalf of FENS, I congratulate Prof. Gjorgjieva on being awarded the prestigious Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize. For FENS, the prize is an important contribution to recognising outstanding research like Julijana Gjorgjieva’s, and to supporting young neuroscientists in furthering their careers.”

Since 2010, the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize has been offered every two years by the Hertie Foundation in cooperation with FENS, and falls under the patronage of the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek.

Further information: www.ghst.de/kandel

A **photo** of Julijana Gjorgjieva is attached, photo credits: A. Eckert/TUM

Prof. Dr Julijana Gjorgjieva, born in 1983 in Macedonia, studied mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, California. In 2011, she completed her PhD in applied mathematics at the University of Cambridge (UK) and subsequently spent five years as a post-doctoral researcher at Harvard University and Brandeis University in the USA, with fellowships from the Swartz Foundation and the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund. In 2016, she established an independent research group at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt a. M. and was appointed Assistant Professor at TUM shortly afterwards through the MaxPlanck@TUM programme. Prof. Gjorgjieva is a member and is on the steering committee of the Bernstein Network for Computational Neuroscience.

Hertie Foundation

The work of the Hertie Foundation focuses on two guiding themes: Exploratory research of the brain and strengthening democracy. The Foundation's projects are a source of exemplary impulse within the scope of these topics. The focus is always on people and the specific improvement of their living conditions. The non-profit Hertie Foundation was established in 1974 by the heirs of the department store owner Georg Karg and is today considered one of the largest, ideologically independent and entrepreneurially unaffiliated foundations in Germany.

www.ghst.de

FENS

Founded in 1998 at the first Forum of European Neuroscience, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) is the main organisation for neuroscience in Europe. Its mission is to advance research and education in neuroscience within and outside Europe, and to facilitate interaction and coordination between its members. FENS currently represents 44 European national and single discipline neuroscience societies with more than 20,000 member scientists from 33 European countries.

www.fens.org

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