

Eurolife Autumn Symposium 2017

In memory of Dan Grandér

MSc in Neurosciences – Opening conference

A journey through Neuroscience

Tuesday, 24th October 2017

(Aula Magna Facultat Medicina I Ciències de la Salut - Clínic)

Welcome

- 16:25** **Prof Francesc Cardellach**, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,
Prof Francisco Ciruela, Chair of Eurolife and UB Rector's Delegate for Strategic Research Actions,
Prof Carles Escera, Director of the Institute of Neurosciences of the UB,
Dr Esther Perez-Navarro, Coordinator of the MSc in Neurosciences

Neuroscience program speakers

- 16:30** **Tight temporal coupling between synaptic rewiring and the emergence of behavior**
Dr Artur Llobet, Department of Pathology and Experimental Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB. Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL).
- 16:55** **Evaluation of neuroprotective new chemical entities in *in vivo* models of aging and senescence: Targeting 11 β -Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 1 and I2-Imidazoline receptor**
Prof Mercè Pallàs, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutic Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB.
- 17:20** **Healthy aging and cerebrovascular disease**
Dr Maria Mataró, Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology, Faculty of Psychology, Institute of Neurosciences, UB.
- 17:45** **Pluripotent stem cells for modeling neurodegenerative disorders and cell replacement strategies**
Dr Josep M. Canals, Department of Biomedicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, UB. Director of Creatio.
- 18:10** Coffee break

Eurolife Distinguished Lecture*

18:30-19:30 **5-HT1BR/p11 and GPR37 as targets in Parkinson's disease**

Prof Per Svenningsson, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

*The speaker will be awarded the EUROLIFE Distinguished Lecture Medal.



Per Svenningsson is a neurologist specializing in the neuropharmacology of movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease. He is a professor of neurology at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institutet and in the Department of Neurology at Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. He is the team leader of a research group that studies the underlying pathogenic process of PD. Svenningsson is also a member of many research councils and committee, including the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP).

Svenningsson received his MD and PhD from the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, where he also completed postdoctoral research. In 2012 he was appointed full professor in the Department of Clinical Neuroscience and the Department of Neurology at the Karolinska University Hospital.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a common neurodegenerative disorders with a largely unknown etiology. The next breakthrough in the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) will be aimed at interference or blockade of disease progression, based on insights into the underlying pathogenic process. The development of this new generation of disease-modifying drugs is hampered by the lack of adequate diagnostics and biomarkers that reflects early signs of disease. The motor signs of PD are often preceded by non-motor symptoms including depression, anosmia, REM sleep disorder and constipation. It is important to develop an improved knowledge of these clinical signs of early PD as neuroprotective and restorative therapies for PD would ideally be offered at an early stage to effectively modify disease progression. The laboratory develops cell and animal models to mimic the progressive disease progression in PD. Biochemical, histological, pharmacological, molecular biological and behavioral techniques are used in these studies. In clinical studies with patients, clinical ratings, biochemical and imaging (PET and MRI) analyses are being made. A special emphasis is placed on non-motor symptoms of PD and the identification of biomarkers. The information is transferred to a newly developed PD quality register. The research team also studies the pathophysiology of unipolar depression in animal models as well as in patient samples. In addition to PD, other movement disorders including Huntington's disease and ataxia are studied.

In addition to research and teaching, Svenningsson holds a number of positions of trust. He was a former grant reviewer for INSERM/ANR in France. He has been on the reviewing committee of the Finnish Medical Research Council, the Swedish Parkinson Fund, and the Norwegian Medical Research Council. He is a member of the Ulf von Euler Lecturer committee and a councilor on the Executive Committee of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP).

Among Svenningsson's honors and awards are the NARSAD Young Investigator Award (2007), awarded to promising young scientists conducting neurobiological research by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. In 2008 he was awarded a researcher position at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

* Professor Dan Grandér tragically passed away on October 6, 2017, after a period of illness. He was Professor of Experimental Oncology at Karolinska Institutet and member of the Eurolife Education Alliance. Those of us who had the incredible honour to interact with him, even if only for a few hours at the Eurolife meetings, we discovered his proximity and humanity. He was an intelligent, open, generous person, very appreciated by colleagues and students. In his life, he succeeded in motivating students and in passing on his passion for the knowledge of Biomedical Science.

Therefore this Eurolife symposium is held in memory of Professor Dan Grandér.