

Der Rat für die Verleihung des Otto Naegeli-Preises  
hat am 20. November 2019 beschlossen,  
den Otto Naegeli-Preis  
zur Förderung der medizinischen Forschung 2020

**PROF. DR. MED. CHRISTIAN LÜSCHER**

zu verleihen.

Dieser Beschluss wurde aufgrund folgender  
Laudatio gefasst:

## PROF. DR. MED. CHRISTIAN LÜSCHER

has made outstanding scientific contributions to the field of addiction research. His work led to a deep understanding of the cellular and neuronal circuit mechanisms driving addiction. Christian Lüscher found that specific synapses change their strength through mechanisms of synaptic plasticity, paralleling the behavioral manifestations of addiction. This insight allowed him to design clever interventions to revert these changes in animal models. In order to enable possible interventions in patients with addiction in the future, Christian Lüscher developed deep brain stimulation protocols in animal models. These are successful in reverting addiction, with high potential for application in patients with severe forms of addiction. These biomedically highly relevant findings have appeared in a series of papers in scientific journals of highest international impact, leaving no doubt that Christian Lüscher is a world leader in the field of addiction research. Importantly, Christian Lüscher's contributions do not only provide deep and fundamental insight into the process of addiction, but also provide avenues to alleviate and possibly cure various forms of addiction in patients in the future. The rigorous and persistent pursuit of the critical biological mechanisms underlying addiction, with the declared goal of applying the knowledge to treat patients, is truly exceptional.

ZÜRICH, 17. April 2020

DER PRÄSIDENT DES PREISRATES: