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Professor Paulus Kirchhof

Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine

Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences

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About

Professor Paulus Kirchhof has recently joined the University of Birmingham as Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine in the School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine. His appointment includes a position as consultant cardiologist at the Department of Cardiology, SWBH NHS Trust. He works on the understanding of novel molecular mechanisms of heart disease “from bench to bedside”. His scientific interests encompass basic science studies to identify novel molecular mechanisms of heart disease as a basis for a translational approach to cardiology. He works on translation through controlled, investigator-initiated clinical trials and the generation of guidelines.

Qualifications

- Internist (GMC-registered)
- Cardiologist (GMC-registered)
- Zusatzbezeichung Intensivmedizin (“intensive care”, Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe)

Biography

Paulus graduated from Münster Medical School, Münster, Germany in 1997 after studying Medicine at the Universities of Heidelberg, Germany; Münster, Germany; Lille, France; and Georgetown University, Washington, USA. He received postgraduate training in Internal Medicine (Specialist Registration 2004), Cardiology (Specialist Registration 2006), and Intensive Care Medicine (“Zusatzbezeichnung Intensivmedizin”, 2011) in the Department of Cardiology and Angiology at the University of Münster. He worked there as a senior interventional cardiologist including postgraduate training in interventional cardiology until joining University of Birmingham in 2011. He still continues an appointment as researcher at University of Münster.

Paulus was a stipendiate of Cusanuswerk, Germany, and has received several prizes, including the prize for the best medical thesis from Heart Center Münster in 1998, the Woldemar-Mobitz Prize (2004) and the Bruno-Kisch Prize (2006) from the German Cardiac Society, and the Sibylle Hahne Prize for Medicine and Sciences from the University of Münster (2005).

Paulus is an active member of several research consortia and professional organisations. Among others, he sits on the steering committee of the German Atrial Fibrillation competence NETwork (AFNET), chairs the scientific documents committee of the European Heart Rhythm Association, and has contributed to the 2010 guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology on the management of atrial fibrillation. He is an Editorial Board Member of *BMC Medicine*, *Heart Rhythm*, and *Europace*, and serves as Editorial Consultant to *The Lancet*.

Postgraduate supervision

Paulus has trained cardiologists in interventional cardiology at University of Münster, and looks forward to joining the active team of interventional cardiologists at City and Sandwell Hospitals.

Research

Paulus has published original research in recognised journals including the Lancet, Circulation, the Journal of Experimental Medicine, Nature Methods, and the Journal of Clinical Investigation. He started his research career during a research year at Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA. At University of Münster, his translational cardiovascular research group studies molecular mechanisms of heart disease. In parallel, he has initiated investigator-initiated controlled clinical trials to translate pathophysiological insights into new therapies for heart disease. In Birmingham, he expects to continue the evaluation and improvement of clinical management of patients with heart disease, especially cardiomyopathies, heart failure, and arrhythmias. In parallel, he will continue to apply transgenic technology to characterize novel mechanisms of myocardial dysfunction and probe new “translational” therapies for heart disaese.

His research is currently supported by several independent funding agencies, including Fondation Leducq within the European North-Atlantic Atrial Fibrillation Research Alliance (ENAFRA), the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the Collaborative Research Center “Molecular Cardiovascular Imaging” in Münster, and the European Union (FP7) through the European Network for Translational Research in Atrial Fibrillation (EUTRAF). He is currently building up a research group at University of Birmingham, so look out for job opportunities if you have an interest in the field!

Links:

- ENAFRA **http://141.76.248.33:8080/enafra/portal/** (http://141.76.248.33:8080/enafra/portal/)
- EUTRAF **www.eutraf.eu** (http://www.eutraf.eu)
- Collaborative Research Centre Molecular Cardiovascular Imaging **www.sfbmobil.de** (http://www.sfbmobil.de/)
- European Heart Rhythm Association **http://www.escardio.org/communities/EHRA/Pages/welcome.aspx** (http://www.escardio.org/communities/EHRA/Pages/welcome.aspx)
- Atrial Fibrillation competence NETwork (AFNET) **www.kompetenznetz-vorhofflimmern.de** (http://www.kompetenznetz-vorhofflimmern.de/)

- The EAST trial **www.easttrial.org (http://www.easttrial.org/)**
- University of Birmingham Research Group: **www.birmingham.ac.uk/heart-failure-arrhythmias (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/heart-failure-arrythmias)**

Publications

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