



**Stepping Stone Symposia**  
First conference on  
**Cancer Research (CR) and  
Neurodegenerative Diseases (NDD)**  
**(SSS-CR/NDD)**  
**Call for Abstract**

Meeting Date: June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012  
Deadline for Abstract submission: Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### **Stepping Stone Symposia Introduction**

The Stepping Stone Symposia are instruments under the Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (SSSTC) for promoting academic and industrial participation of the program: Understanding the importance of dialogues with industry in translating research into innovation and to take advantage of the Sino-Swiss ties built up through research collaboration, the SSSTC wishes to encourage and pave way for the involvement of industries in the second action phase, SSSTC 2013-2016. The “Stepping Stone Symposia” are envisioned to be a series of conferences participated by the most outstanding scientists and relevant industries. Through scientific presentations and discussions between enterprises and researchers, mutual understanding on limits and needs will be promoted. By bringing participants from both Switzerland and China together, local (Chinese) knowledge and perspectives may be brought in and innovation process facilitated. These conferences should thus be the “stepping stones” for translational research. To achieve maximum benefit, each symposium should be one of a set of two symposia for a given thematic area: the first one in Switzerland, and the second one in China.

The current conference on cancer research and neurodegenerative diseases shall be the first of the series.

#### **Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (SSSTC)**

In the Swiss Federal Council’s resolution on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (the “BFI Botschaft”) for the period 2008-2011, China is named as one of the priority countries for intensified bilateral scientific cooperation. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2003 between the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the SSSTC began its pilot phase in 2004 with symposia and workshops. In 2007, further meetings between both governments confirmed the bilateral support to continue the SSSTC program from 2008 to 2011. In addition, based on an exchange of letters, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has become a major partner of the SSSTC in China. To date, 144 projects have been awarded to Swiss participants covering almost all Swiss universities. As a result, a steady stream of exchange scholars has been travelling to their partner institutions to work and to learn a different culture. These joint projects receive financial support from both Swiss and Chinese sources – an arrangement marking a new era of Sino Swiss cooperation. In April 2011, Swiss Federal Councillor D. Burkharter met with Minister Wan Gang of the MOST. Both expressed their satisfaction with the SSSTC program and agreed to allocate earmarked funding to extend the program until 2016.

**Organizer:** Prof. Wilhelm Krek (ETH Zurich), Prof. Adriano Aguzzi (University Hospital Zurich), and Dr. Maio Chen (SSSTC program office, ETH Zurich)

**Program:**

The program will include two parts: a scientific part consists of seminars and poster sessions and a visiting program that may consist of visiting to pharmaceutical facility and/or other local institutes or business. Final program will be communicated at the earliest possible time.

**Scientific Board:**

CR	NDD
Chairperson: <a href="http://www.cell.biol.ethz.ch/people/krek/biography">Wilhelm Krek</a> <sup>1</sup> (ETH, Zurich)	Chairperson: <a href="http://www.neuroscience.ethz.ch/research/aging_disorders/aguzzi">Adriano Aguzzi</a> <sup>2</sup> (USZ, Zurich)
Doug Hanahan (EPFL, Lausanne)	Roland Riek (ETH Zurich)
Holger Moch (USZ, Zurich)	Anirvan Gosh (Roche, Basel, tentative)
Francesco Hofmann (Novartis Oncology, Basel)	Christian Lüscher (Uni. Geneva)

<sup>1</sup> [www.cell.biol.ethz.ch/people/krek/biography](http://www.cell.biol.ethz.ch/people/krek/biography)

<sup>2</sup> [www.neuroscience.ethz.ch/research/aging\\_disorders/aguzzi](http://www.neuroscience.ethz.ch/research/aging_disorders/aguzzi)

**Abstract submission deadline:** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The scientific board will evaluate and select speakers and posters based on the abstracts. The results shall be communicated to applicants by the end of March 2012.

**Meeting Date:** June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

(Possibility of visiting programs on the 19<sup>th</sup> and/or the 23<sup>rd</sup>: Pending further notification.)

**Meeting Language:** English

**Guidelines for Abstract submission:**

(Please use the application form.)

All submission should contain:

- A full title (abbreviated title may also be submitted) of a talk or a poster (please indicate your preference);
- Principle author: full name, title, affiliated institution, address, telephone number, and e-mail address;
- Co-authors, if any;
- Key words;
- Body of abstract: maximum of 500 words;
- Short CV (maximum of 1 page) plus the most relevant publications (maximum of 10).

**Qualification:** Professors and senior scientists. Post-docs and PhD students are welcome, but a reference letter from his/her professor will be necessary. All academic participants are expected to contribute scientifically either via oral presentations or posters.

**Corporate Participation:**

Corporate participants who wish to set up displays please contact the meeting organizer.

**Abstract Selection:**

Abstracts will be selected for either short talks or for posters. The scientific board will evaluate the abstracts and make the final decision by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Costs:**

- For academic participants, Swiss or Chinese: No registration fee. Local meeting costs will be covered by the meeting organizer.
- Registration fee for corporate participants: CHF 500.

**Sponsors:** This symposium is supported by a number of major (pharmaceutical) companies. A complete list will be published at a later time.

**Please submit your abstract to:**

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**For questions related to the meeting or abstract submission, you can also contact (in China):**

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