



Timo Ulrichs

Koch-Mechnikov Forum

Timo Ulrichs was born in 1971, studied medicine at the Philipps-University in Marburg and did his MD on immunological aspects in rheumatoid arthritis. After a clinical term at the Charité Hospital in Berlin, he went as postdoctoral fellow to Harvard Medical School in Boston and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Back in Berlin, he continued his research activities on the immunology and microbiology of tuberculosis at the Max-Planck-Institute for Infection Biology and at the same time specialized in medical microbiology and infection immunology at Charité University Hospital. He now works in the division of international health politics of the German Federal Ministry of Health. In the Koch-Metchnikov-Forum he heads the section of tuberculosis and is active in various German-Russian collaborative projects. He published 25 original papers, in 9 of them as first author; 6 reviews and contributed to various scientific books. He contributed to various conferences on tuberculosis, vaccinology and microbiology and he himself organized over 30 congresses, conferences and symposia. Besides his scientific work and publications, Timo Ulrichs is very active in improving microbiological diagnostics and therapy in the Russian Federation and in the successor states of the former Soviet Union, namely in Moldova and Uzbekistan. In Moldova, he contributes as member of the faculty (associate professor) to the medical education. In addition, he organizes summer schools and seminars in these countries and in Berlin and a DAAD-funded exchange program for further education of scientists and physicians in the field of tuberculosis control.

Short description of the Koch-Metchnikov-Forum

Since 2001, Timo Ulrichs works in German-Russian collaborative scientific projects on immunology, microbiology and epidemiology of tuberculosis. In 2006, in the presence of president Putin and chancellor Merkel the Koch-Metchnikov-Forum (KMF) was founded as initiative of the Petersburg dialogue and providing the organizational framework for collaborative projects in the field of fighting infectious diseases. The field of tuberculosis forms the center of KMF. The Forum is named after Robert Koch, the bacteriologist who described *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the etiologic agent of tuberculosis, and Ilya Metchnikov who discovered macrophages as the key immune cells in the immune response against *M. tuberculosis* and many other pathogens. KMF is funded by grants of the German Ministry of Education and Research and by several companies involved in diagnostics and vaccine development. The aim of KMF is to further the scientific cooperation, the exchange of ideas, scientists and materials (capacity building in the partner institutions). It also intends to improve the WHO strategy of containing tuberculosis, DOTS (directly observed therapy, short-course). Partners of the KMF are in Germany: Charité University Medicine, National Reference Center for Mycobacteria, Max-Planck-Institute for Infection Biology; in Russia: Central Tuberculosis Research Institute in Moscow, Institute for Experimental Medicine and Institute for Phthisiopulmonology in St. Petersburg, Siberian State Medical University in Tomsk, Federal Tuberculosis Center in Novosibirsk.