



Translation of the German-language press release issued by the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation on 6 February 2009 regarding the Foundations 100 million euro donation to the University of Mainz:

Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation supports research excellence at the University of Mainz in an exceptional manner

Foundation donates 100 million euros to establish Excellence Centre for Life Sciences; state government finances state-of-the-art research building

Mainz, 6 February 2009: With its exceptional initiative, the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation has strengthened cutting-edge research at the University of Mainz. Over a period of ten years, the Foundation will finance the establishment and scientific operations of the Excellence Centre for Life Sciences (working title) with a total of 100 million euros. The state of Rhineland-Palatinate has thus received one of the largest-ever private donations for a scientific institution at a German university. The state will contribute towards the Excellence Centre by financing a state-of-the-art research building that will offer the best conditions for internationally renowned researchers. According to Otto Boehringer, chairman of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, and Science Minister Doris Ahnen, the institute will fulfil international standards for top research in terms of its scale and infrastructure.

“We are pleased that the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz regarded our idea of providing additional cutting-edge research at the University of Mainz in such a positive light and immediately offered their active support,” explained Otto Boehringer. “In view of the intensified competition and the international rivalry to attract the best scientific minds, we want to support both Rhineland-Palatinate and the University of Mainz in strengthening their cutting-edge research and increasing their international visibility,” Boehringer emphasized. “We, the Boehringer and the von Baumbach family, regard our recent involvement as active civic engagement and as a service to society. We want our contribution to be long lasting. We aim to strengthen and promote the development of Mainz and the region as a whole as a centre for internationally visible cutting-edge research, thus helping to provide solutions to scientific and medical challenges, and thereby improving human health.

The minister-president of Rhineland-Palatinate, Kurt Beck, was very pleased with the Foundation’s decision: “I am extraordinarily proud and thankful that the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation is supporting a scientific institution in Rhineland-Palatinate to such an extraordinary degree. This is a great step forward for our state and an opportunity to enhance its reputation as a viable science and research location of international standing.” According to Beck, such a private commitment is a sign of far-sightedness and a well-developed sense of responsibility for the common good. Basic scientific medical research is contributing a great deal towards ensuring the future of the region and is helping to improve people’s quality of life over the long term. “The close collaboration and the cooperative negotiations between the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, Minister Doris Ahnen, and Professor Georg Krausch, President of the Johannes

Gutenberg University Mainz, have resulted in a major project with which the Foundation has demonstrated considerable confidence in us. We are more than grateful for this confidence, and we intend to live up to it," added Beck.

"A centre of excellence for the life sciences at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz will become a milestone in our scientific landscape. The University of Mainz is already among those German universities with large research capacities. It has a total of eleven DFG Collaborative Research Centres, five of which are in the field of life sciences. This role will be underpinned in the long term by the generous support of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation. For this I am very grateful," said Doris Ahnen, Rhineland-Palatinate's minister for education, science, youth, and culture. "The life sciences have become the key sciences of this century. It is therefore even more important for us to expand this interdisciplinary area of research in Mainz at the highest level, in order to attract the best scientists and further improve the standing of top-level research at Johannes Gutenberg University, both nationally and internationally," continued Minister Ahnen.

For Dr Dr Andreas Barner, spokesman for the Board of Managing Directors of the company Boehringer Ingelheim, this new initiative represents an opportunity for Mainz as a scientific hub: "The planned centre of excellence will enable Mainz to strengthen its profile as a scientific location and offer a highly attractive scientific environment to newly recruited scientists. In taking this initiative, the successors of the company's founder, Albert Boehringer, have made a further contribution to research and have encouraged excellent and internationally oriented basic research to settle and grow in Mainz."

"With the foundation of the Excellence Centre for Life Sciences, Mainz will establish itself as an internationally significant scientific centre for molecular medicine. The institute will act as a bridge between the active agent-oriented material sciences and medicine, and create scientific synergies between the disciplines that will supplement and reinforce existing know-how," explained Professor Georg Krausch, president of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. He added that the centre of excellence in Mainz will offer particularly attractive job opportunities and prospects that will extend beyond the ten-year funding period.

Scientific focus, funding, organization, and integration of the new Excellence Centre for Life Sciences

While the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation will guarantee the overall operation of the centre for a period of ten years by contributing a total of 100 million euros, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate will provide the approximately 30 million euros required for the construction of a state-of-the-art research building with a net interior floor space of approximately 6,000 square meters. The building will be constructed in two phases. The plans for the first phase assume that it will be ready for operation by 1 January 2011. The centre of excellence will most probably be set up by Johannes Gutenberg University in the form of a legally independent, non-profit company with limited liability (gGmbH) to be administrated by the University. Both the University and the Foundation intend to initially appoint two or three internationally renowned researchers who will shape the centre's development and, in the words of Otto Boehringer, attract "excellent young researchers from all over the world to Mainz." Up to three scientific departments are planned, each with a director and as many as six independent groups of young researchers. The researchers are to be appointed as professors or associate professors of the University of Mainz, but will be exempted from teaching duties to

concentrate on their work at the institute. Internationally accredited founding directors will be recruited in accordance with the so-called Harnack principle. This process will identify top international researchers, who, once appointed, will independently determine the scientific focus and subject of their work. They will also be provided with excellent working conditions and be given a free hand in selecting their staff. The establishment of the Excellence Centre for Life Sciences will result in the creation of about 100 new research and non-academic jobs.

Otto Boehringer, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, Kurt Beck, minister-president of Rhineland-Palatinate, Dr Dr Andreas Barner, spokesman for the Board of Managing Directors of the company Boehringer Ingelheim, Doris Ahnen, minister for education, science, youth, and culture of Rhineland-Palatinate, and Professor Georg Krausch, president of the University of Mainz, are all convinced that “Mainz is unparalleled as a location, thanks to the numerous academic links to the University’s main fields of research and its medical faculty and clinic. This sets the course for success, both for science and for the people of Rhineland-Palatinate. After all, the life sciences are all about the fundamental question of how we can live better in the future.”

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Boehringer-Ingelheim-Stiftung

The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization committed to the promotion of the medical, biological, chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences. It was established in 1977 by Hubertus Liebrecht (1931–1991), a member of the shareholder family of the company Boehringer Ingelheim. With the Perspectives Programme “Plus 3” and the Exploration Grants, the foundation supports independent junior group leaders. It also endows the internationally renowned Heinrich Wieland Prize as well as awards for up-and-coming scientists. In addition, the foundation will donate a total of 154 million euros from 2009 to 2027 to the University of Mainz for the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB). Since 2013, the foundation donates a further 50 million euros for the development of the life sciences at the University of Mainz. www.bistiftung.de