

HEINRICH WIELAND PRIZE



SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER 2025 | PROFILE

Professor Dr Utz Fischer

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU), Germany

Utz Fischer is a leading biochemist studying the structure, function, and assembly of ribonucleoproteins (RNPs) and their link to human diseases. His group discovered an elaborate assembly chaperone system that guides the formation of the pre-mRNA processing spliceosome. Using animal models, he showed that the neuromuscular disease spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) – caused by mutations in the spliceosome assembly chaperone system – likely results from impaired snRNP production. By uncovering key aspects of the etiology of SMA and related neuromuscular disorders, Utz Fischer's research may open new ways for therapeutic approaches.

Utz Fischer studied Biochemistry at Freie Universität Berlin and obtained his doctorate from Philipps-Universität Marburg in 1992. After postdoctoral research in Marburg and at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA, he led a group at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany, before becoming Professor of Biochemistry at JMU Würzburg in 2003. His awards include the Gerhard Hess Award of the German Research Foundation. He is a Scientific Member of the Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres of DFG and an elected Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

