NOBEL SYMPOSIA SERIES

Obesity – a challenge to cardiovascular health

Annika Rosengren Sahlgrenska University Hospital (Sweden)

Deciphering atherosclerosis with multi-omics approaches

Lars Maegdefessel Technical University of Munich (Germany)

NOBEL IN AFRICA
A STIAS INITIATIVE

Wednesday, 23 October 2024 | 10h00 – 13h00
Cape Heart Institute, 5th Floor Lecture Theatre – Chris Barnard Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town

BIOGRAPHIES

Annika Rosengren is a cardiologist and specialist in internal medicine at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital. After her PhD at the University of Gothenburg, she held a researcher position half financed by the Swedish Medical Research Council for six years and then became professor of epidemiology in 1999. Since 2002 she has been a professor of medicine, with a major commitment to teaching in addition to research.

Her main research area is cardiovascular epidemiology, based on cohort and register studies. She is a member of the steering committees for several large international observational studies such as INTERHEART, INTERSTROKE and the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological (PURE) study and also for the Swedish Cardiopulmonary bio–Image Study (SCAPIS). Her current focus is cardiometabolic disease, in particular obesity from a life-course perspective. She has been awarded research grants from the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation.

Lars Maegdefessel studied medicine in Mainz (Germany), Bern (Switzerland) and New York (USA). Upon completion of his medical studies and finalizing his doctorate, he became a Clinical fellow in Cardiology and Vascular Medicine in Mainz, before moving to Stanford University as a Postdoctoral research fellow. In 2012, he was recruited as an Assistant Professor in Experimental Vascular Medicine to the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. In 2016, he started having a dual affiliation between Stockholm and the Technical University in Munich (TUM), Germany, where he has recently been promoted to become the Director of the newly formed Institute of Molecular Vascular Medicine at TUM.

Research in Dr. Maegdefessel's laboratories in Munich and Stockholm focuses on the therapeutic and biomarker potential of non-coding RNAs in vascular diseases. The labs have access to various human biobanks and cohorts, *in vivo* and *in vitro* models (organs-on-chips) and utilize multiple Omics approaches to unravel novel molecular targets with relevance to atherosclerosis and vascular disease progression.

Dr. Maegdefessel has been awarded research grants and awards from the European Research Council (Starting and Consolidator Grants), the German Research and Swedish Research Councils (DFG and Vetenkapsradet), the German Ministry of Education and Research, the Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation, the German Center for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), the National Institute of Health (NIH), as well as the American Heart Association (Russel Ross Award in Atherosclerosis Research, Werner Risau Award in Vascular Biology).

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