

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Jürgen Hescheler:

Prof. Hescheler is Chairman and Director of the Institute of Neurophysiology at the University of Cologne. He has been working with embryonic stem cells of the mouse for over 20 years. Beginning with studies on cellular signal transduction, he has defined many important basic aspects both of fundamental research and of clinical applications. He was the first scientist worldwide to perform electrophysiological experiments on stem cells thus pioneering the establishment of stem cell research for application in transplantation medicine. In 2002 he was the first scientist in Germany to obtain permission to work with human embryonic stem cells. In March 2004 he was appointed coordinator of the European Consortium FunGenES (Functional Genomics of Engineered Embryonic Stem Cells) followed by CRYSTAL (Cryobanking of Stem Cells for human therapeutic application) in 2005 and ESNATS (Embryonic stem cell-based novel alternative testing strategies) in 2007. He is also coordinator of the BMBF consortium “iPS and adult bone marrow cells for cardiac repair”, which started work in March 2009. In 2005 he founded the German Society for Stem Cell Research.

