

LEO Pharma Research Foundation gives DKK 1.5 Million to Young Scientists

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On 25 November 2009 the LEO Pharma Research Foundation handed over the Gold and Silver Awards to honour two young Nordic scientists for their contribution to understanding and treating diseases. The awards aim to honour and encourage young talents who make a special contribution to medical research by funding their projects.

"The foundation doesn't interfere with what type of projects the award winners seek to implement. And this gives the award winners a unique opportunity to pursue ideas they might not be able to investigate otherwise," says Executive Vice President Lars Olsen. "We want to give young talents a chance to complete their dream projects."

Gold Prize – Christian Vestergaard

The Gold Award winner of this year is Danish PhD, MD Christian Vestergaard who carries out research within the field of dermatology at the Aarhus University Hospital.

"To me personally, it's a great honour to receive such an award. Research wise the money means that I get a chance to carry out bigger projects in the laboratory," says Christian Vestergaard who will now continue his work within atopic dermatitis and urticaria.

Silver Prize – Ilkka Helanterä

The Silver Award winner is PhD, MD Ilkka Helanterä from Finland. Helanterä does research in kidney transplant related diseases at the Helsinki University Hospital.



Fig. 2. Left to right: Lars Olsen (LEO Pharma's Executive Vice President of R&D), Christian Vestergaard, Ilkka Helanterä, Sven Frøkjær (Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the university of Copenhagen), Tord Labuda (Group Leader at LEO Pharma) and Tore Duvold (Corporate Vice President of Discovery at LEO Pharma).