

# Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators

The Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators was first established in 1995. It acknowledges outstanding contributions to biomedical research in Europe based on methods of molecular biology, including novel analytical concepts.

The Award is presented in partnership with the scientific journal [Nature](#).



Prize money: 20,000 EUR

[Download poster Call for Entries 2021](#)

In 2020, Eppendorf AG, the Hamburg life science company, is presenting its highly prestigious research prize for the 25th time. The independent Eppendorf Award Jury chaired by Prof. Reinhard Jahn selected [Prof. Dr. Randall J. Platt](#), Assistant Professor of Biological Engineering, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, as the 2020 winner of the Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators.

Randall Platt, born 1987, receives the € 20,000 prize for his pioneering work developing a method to record timelines of gene expression events using a CRISPR-Cas system.

In response to the rapidly changing situation of the Corona virus outbreak (COVID-19), the Award ceremony at the EMBL Advanced Training Centre in Heidelberg, which was planned for June 25, 2020, within the [Young European Investigators Conference](#), has been postponed to June 24, 2021.

## About the Award

Since 1995 the Eppendorf Young Investigator Award is granted annually to European researchers not older than 35 years. It acknowledges outstanding contributions to biomedical research in Europe based on methods of molecular biology, including novel analytical concepts. The winner is selected by an independent expert committee chaired by Reinhard Jahn (Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany).

This prize, which reflects the past and future of Eppendorf in a manner befitting the wishes of the company's founders, Dr. Heinrich Netheler and Dr. Hans Hinz, is intended to symbolize the close links between the company and the field of biomedicine.

The award was first established in 1995 on occasion of Eppendorf's 50th anniversary.

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Prize money € 20,000

## The Award winner will receive

- > a prize money of 20,000 Euro (for personal use)
- > an invitation to the prize ceremony at the EMBL Advanced Training Centre in Heidelberg, Germany

- > an invitation to visit Eppendorf AG in Hamburg, Germany
- > coverage of his/her work by Nature in print and online (including a podcast)

### **Contact information**

For questions regarding the Award, please send an email to: [award@eppendorf.de](mailto:award@eppendorf.de)

### **Nature journal**

The Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators is presented in partnership with the scientific journal Nature.

[Click here to visit](#)

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### **Young European Investigators Conference**

FREE Conference: June 24, 2021 / EMBL Advanced Training Centre, Heidelberg, Germany

[Read more](#)

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### **Entry details & judging procedures**

#### **Who can apply for the award?**

Young researchers not older than 35 years with an advanced degree who are performing biomedical research in Europe based on methods of molecular biology, including novel analytical concepts.

#### **How to apply**

Online applications for the Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators are accepted from October 1 of each year onwards at [www.eppendorf.com/award/application](http://www.eppendorf.com/award/application)

Your application must include:

- > your personal data
- > your curriculum vitae
- > a title describing the subject of your research
- > an essay of max. 2,000 characters (incl. spaces) summarizing your research
- > a brief description of your major discovery
- > your publication list with PDF files of your published papers (min. 3 - max. 5)

Your application and all submitted documents must be in English.

#### **Judging procedures**

Eppendorf has no influence on deciding who receives the award.

The prize is awarded by an independent committee composed of five renowned experts under the chairmanship of Prof. Reinhard Jahn (Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany), from the fields of:

- > Cellular Neurobiology (Prof. Reinhard Jahn: Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany)
- > Genetics and Cell Biology (Prof. Maria Leptin: Director EMBO, Heidelberg, Germany)

- > Protein Biochemistry (Prof. Martin J. Lohse: University of Wuerzburg, Germany)
- > Cell Biology (Prof. Laura Machesky: Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute, Glasgow, UK)

The papers submitted will be evaluated with respect to the following five selection criteria:

1. Independent scientific work
2. Creativity (independent of instructions from head of institute)
3. Successful practical application of research approach
4. Significance of research results for the field of medicine
5. Achievement of candidate in relation to his/her age

The main focus is on investigating the molecular biological mechanisms of the human organism and then translating this research into practical findings. The long-term goal is the diagnosis and therapy of those diseases which have yet to be treated successfully.

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## 2021 Call for Entries

[apply here](#)

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## 2020 Award Winner

### 2020 Award Winner: Prof. Randall Platt

#### Appointment at time of winning the Award:

Assistant Professor of Biological Engineering,  
Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering,  
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Randall Platt, born 1987, receives the € 20,000 prize for his pioneering work developing a method to record timelines of gene expression events using a CRISPR-Cas system.

The Jury: "This system works by small pieces of RNA being inserted into the genome of a non-pathogenic bacterium in response to environmental changes. This system enables progress toward future development of a gut microbiome (normal intestinal flora) that can report experiences of the host organism and shows potential for use as a diagnostic tool to predict individualized precision interventions for both humans and other animals."

Randall Platt: "Receiving the Eppendorf Award is a tremendous honor, one in which I share with my laboratory, collaborators, and family. My research focuses on developing innovative technologies that empower scientists to ask fundamental questions and develop therapeutics and diagnostics. The Award specifically recognizes my



laboratory's work on living diagnostics - engineered bacteria that act as biographers of their environment by continuously recording gene expression information - which may in the future provide a non-invasive tool to diagnose and individualize therapies for patients around the world."

In response to the rapidly changing situation of the Corona virus outbreak (COVID-19), the **Award ceremony** at the EMBL Advanced Training Centre in Heidelberg, which was planned for June 25, 2020, within the Young European Investigators Conference, **has been postponed to June 24, 2021.**

### Downloads

- > [↓ Press release March 31, 2020: 2020 Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators Goes to Randall Platt](#)
- > [Press photo Randall Platt: \(Photo credit: ETH Zurich, Switzerland\)](#)
- > [↓ Laudation for Randall Platt](#)
- > [↓ Flyer about Randall Platt's work](#)
- > [New Nature podcast with Randall Platt: Hijacking the CRISPR system to create 'living diagnostics'](#)

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### **Past Award Winners**

#### **2019 Award Winner**

[Dr. Georg Winter](#)

Principal Investigator at the CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

#### **2018 Award Winner**

[Prof. Andrea Ablasser](#)

Assistant Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland

#### **2017 Award Winner**

[Tom Baden, PD PhD](#)

Senior Lecturer in Neuroscience at the School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

#### **2016 Award Winner**

[Prof. Adrian Liston](#)

Group leader at VIB Translational Immunology Lab, University of Leuven, Belgium

#### **2015 Award Winner**

[Dr. Thomas Wollert](#)

Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany

#### **2014 Award Winner**

[Madeline Lancaster](#)

Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Laboratory of Juergen Knoblich, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA), Vienna, Austria

#### **2013 Award Winner**

[Benjamin Lehner](#)

EMBL-CRG Systems Biology Unit Centre for Genomic Regulation Barcelona, Spain

#### **2012 Award Winner**

[Dr. Elizabeth Murchison](#)

Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, United Kingdom

**2011 Award Winner**

[Assistant Professor Suzan Rooijackers, PhD](#)

University Medical Center Utrecht, Department of Medical Microbiology, Utrecht, The Netherlands

**2009 Award Winner**

[Dr. Óscar Fernández-Capetillo](#)

Head, Genomic Instability Group, Spanish National Cancer Center (CNIO), Madrid, Spain.

**2008 Award Winner**

[Dr. Simon Boulton](#)

Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute, UK

**2007 Award Winner**

[Dr. Mónica Bettencourt-Dias](#)

Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras, Portugal

**2006 Award Winner**

[Dr. Luca Scorrano](#)

Dulbecco-Telethon Institute, Venetian Institute of Molecular Medicine, Padova, Italy

**2005 Award Winner**

[Dr. Thomas Helleday](#)

Arrhenius Laboratory Department of Genetics, Microbiology and Toxicology, Stockholm University

**2004 Award Winner**

[Prof. Dr. Patrick Cramer](#)

Gene Center, University of Munich, Germany

**2003 Award Winner**

[Prof. Dr. Silvia Arber](#)

Biozentrum, University of Basel, Friedrich-Miescher-Institute Basel, Switzerland

**2002 Award Winner**

[Dr. Thomas Tuschl](#)

Göttingen, Germany

**2001 Award Winner**

[Dr. Andreas Mayer](#)

Friedrich-Miescher Laboratory of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Tübingen, Germany

**2000 Award Winner**

[Dr. Dario Alessi](#)

MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit, University of Dundee, Scotland

**1999 Award Winner**

[Dr. Jean Pieters](#)

Basel Institute for Immunology, Switzerland

**1998 Award Winner**

[Professor Dr. Michael Wegner](#)

Center of Molecular Neurobiology, University Hospital (UKE), Hamburg, Germany

### **1997 Award Winner**

[Professor Dr. Helena Edlund](#)

Department of Microbiology, University of Umea, Sweden

### **1996 Award Winner**

[Professor Dr. Ueli Suter](#)

Institute of Cell Biology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH Zürich

### **1995 Award Winner**

[Professor Dr. Stephen P. Jackson](#)

Wellcome/CRC Institute, University of Cambridge, England

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## **Press releases & speeches**

2019

[⚡ Press release: 27.6.2019 - 2019 Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators presented to Georg Winter](#)

[⚡ Speech: 27.6.2019 – Laudation for Georg Winter by Prof. Reinhard Jahn](#)

2018

[⚡ Press release: 22.6.2018 - 2018 Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators presented to Andrea Ablasser](#)

[⚡ Speech: 21.6.2018 – Laudation for Andrea Ablasser by Prof. Reinhard Jahn](#)

2017

[⚡ Press release: 23.6.2017 - 2017 Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators presented to Tom Baden](#)

[⚡ Speech: 22.6.2017 – Laudation for Tom Baden by Prof. Maria Leptin](#)

2016

[⚡ Press release: 2.6.2016 - Presentation of Eppendorf Young Investigator Award 2016 in Heidelberg](#)

[⚡ Speech: 2.6.2016 – Laudatio for Adrian Liston by Prof. Reinhard Jahn](#)

2015

[⚡ Press release: 25.6.2015 - Presentation of Eppendorf Young Investigator Award 2015 in Heidelberg](#)

[⚡ Speech: 25.6.2015 – Laudatio for Thomas Wollert by Prof. Reinhard Jahn](#)

2014

[⚡ Press release: 22.05.2014 - Presentation of Eppendorf Young Investigator Award 2014 in Heidelberg](#)

[⚡ Speech: 22.05.2014 - Laudatio for Madeline Lancaster by Prof. Dr. Reinhard Jahn](#)

2013

[⚡ Press release: 06.06.2013 – Presentation of Eppendorf Young Investigator Award 2013 in Heidelberg](#)

[⚡ Speech: 06.06.2012 – Laudatio for Ben Lehner by Prof. Dr. Reinhard Jahn](#)