

**Prestigious Research Award for Young Cancer Researcher**

**Christian Stock, a scientist at the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ) in Heidelberg has been presented the €15,000 Endoscopic Research Award 2011. The German Society for Digestive and Metabolic Diseases (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Verdauungs- und Stoffwechselkrankheiten, DGVS) and the Olympus Europa Foundation “Science for Life” award this research prize to young scientists for outstanding achievements in basic or clinical research in endoscopy.**

His award-winning publication entitled “Colorectal cancer mortality prevented by use and attributable to nonuse of colonoscopy” was published in March 2011 as an “issue highlight” in the renowned U.S. journal *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*. With this methodical and empirical publication, Christian Stock has made an important contribution to assessing the effect of colorectal cancer screening in the population. He was presented the Endoscopic Research Award on September 16, 2011 at the 66<sup>th</sup> DGVS Annual Conference in Leipzig.

Colonoscopy (endoscopic examination of the entire large bowel) and removal of existing polyps at the same time play a central role in the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer. Up to now, however, the public health benefit of this examination had not yet been quantified. In DKFZ's Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, Christian Stock evaluated data from cancer registers and health surveys in order to assess the effect and potential of colonoscopy in relation to the mortality rate of colorectal cancer. The basis of his analysis was the year 2005. In this year, 49,700 U.S. citizens aged 50 and older died of colorectal cancer. Stock was able to show that in the same year up to 11,700 deaths from colorectal cancer had already been prevented in this population group as a result of previous colonoscopy screening examinations. At the same time, his analysis also revealed that almost twice as many deaths, namely 22,100, could have been avoided if compliance with screening examinations had been population-wide. This result documents the relevance and potential of colorectal cancer screening programs. In Germany, this examination is covered by statutory health insurance funds as a primary screening examination for people starting from age 55.

“Being awarded such a prestigious research prize while still in his PhD phase confirms the great talent of this young researcher,” says Stock's PhD supervisor, Professor Hermann Brenner, head of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research at DKFZ.

“For me, this distinction is a great success and also a motivation to keep on working in the area of colorectal cancer prevention,” says Christian Stock, pleased about the award. Therefore, the young researcher will probably use the prize money for further healthcare research projects.

Award-winner Christian Stock, aged 33, studied business administration focusing on the healthcare sector in Osnabrück, Germany, and health sciences in York, U.K. From 2008 until June 2011, he was a PhD student at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and a Klaus Tschira Foundation scholar in the Network Aging Research (NAR) of Heidelberg University. He currently is a research assistant in the Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research at DKFZ. The award-winning publication is part of his PhD thesis, in which he studied compliance with colonoscopy screening programs in the general population.

Christian Stock, Amy B. Knudsen, Iris Landsdorp-Vogelaar, Ulrike Haug, Hermann Brenner: Colorectal cancer mortality prevented by use and attributable to nonuse of colonoscopy. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* - March 2011, DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2010.12.005

A picture of Christian Stock is available on the Internet at:  
[www.dkfz.de/de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2011/images/stock-christian.jpg](http://www.dkfz.de/de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2011/images/stock-christian.jpg)

The German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ), employing over 2,500 staff members, is the largest biomedical research institute in Germany. More than 1,000 scientists are working to investigate the mechanisms of cancer development, identify cancer risk factors and develop new strategies for better cancer prevention, more precise diagnosis and effective treatment of cancer patients. In addition, the staff of the Cancer Information Service (KID) provides information about this widespread disease for patients, their families, and the general public. DKFZ is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (90%) and the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (10%) and is a member of the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers.

Dr. Stefanie Selmann  
Head of Press and Public Relations  
German Cancer Research Center  
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280  
D-69120 Heidelberg  
T: +49 6221 42 2854  
F: +49 6221 42 2968  
[presse@dkfz.de](mailto:presse@dkfz.de)