



## Media Communiqué

# Two neuroscientists from Basle have been awarded with the Cloëtta prize

**Basel.** This year the Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation has presented awards to two neuroscientists working at the University of Basel; Prof. Andreas Papassotiropoulos and Prof. Dominique de Quervain have received the endowment of this prize, amounting to 50'000 francs for their excellent work in relation to the neurobiological and molecular mechanisms of human memory.

For the first time in the history of the Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation, a pair of researchers has been presented with the award: Prof. Andreas Papassotiropoulos and Prof. Dominique de Quervain together lead the cross-faculty research platform "molecular and cognitive neuroscience" at the University of Basel. Amongst other areas their research is targeted towards better understanding the neurobiological and molecular mechanisms of human memory and the development of new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of memory disturbances.

To assist their translational orientated research in achieving concrete therapeutic applications they founded GeneGuide Ltd in 2013. The aim of this start-up company is to identify and develop new medicines for the treatment of memory disturbances and other neuropsychiatric illnesses, examples include schizophrenia and anxiety related disorders.

The presentation of the award will take place in December at the University of Basel.

**Andreas Papassotiropoulos** has since 2007 been Professor of Molecular Neurosciences at the University of Basel. Born in 1970 in Athens he received his PHD in Human Medicine at Bonn in 1996. Other stations of his career led him to the University Hospital in Bonn, the University of Zürich, as well as research visits to the USA, amongst others including the National Institute on Aging. He received his medical specialist certification as a Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist in 2001. In 2003 he received a facilitated professorship from the Swiss National Research Fund. His special areas of expertise include the investigation of the molecular basis of human memory and the development of improved therapies in relation to capacity to recognize and memorize.

**Dominique de Quervain** has since 2009 been Professor of Cognitive Neurosciences at the University of Basel. Born in 1968 in Bern he also studied medicine there and received his PHD in 1998. In 1997 he worked as a research fellow at the center for the neurobiology of learning and memory at the University of California in Irvine. He was subsequently an assistant doctor at the University Psychiatric Clinic Basel, before he moved in 2000 to the University of Zürich. In 2005 he received a facilitated professorship from the Swiss National Research Fund. De Quervain is particularly interested in the effects of stress hormones on memory as well as on the molecular basis, functional neuroimaging and the pharmacology of the learning and memory process.

**Sponsorship of medical research.** The Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation sponsors and supports medical research and its natural science related disciplines in Switzerland. They organize a yearly prize which can be presented to either Swiss or foreign individuals who have earned this prize through the carrying out of important work which serves the advancement of medical research.

### Further Information

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### Related Pages

Prof. Dr. Max Cloëtta Foundation

<http://www.cloetta-stiftung.ch/>

Division of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Basel >

<http://www.brainscience.ch/unibas-dcn.html>

Division of Molecular Neuroscience at the University of Basel >

<http://psycho.unibas.ch/abteilungen/abteilung-details/home/abteilung/molecular-neuroscience/>

GeneGuide Ltd.> <http://www.geneguide.com/>

### Image Material

Prof. Dr. Andreas Papassotiropoulos >

[http://www.unibas.ch/mediaDB/papassotiropoulos\\_andreas\\_2013\\_big.jpg](http://www.unibas.ch/mediaDB/papassotiropoulos_andreas_2013_big.jpg)

Prof. Dr. Dominique de Quervain >

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### Press Contact:

**Those responsible for reporting in the press are kindly requested to register either by E-Mail or FAX for presentation of the prize. The application form is attached.**

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