PROF. STEFAN OFFERMANNS

Born and raised in Berlin **Stefan Offermanns** studied chemistry, history, politics and medicine at the Free University of Berlin and graduated as medical doctor in 1991 with *summa cum laude*. He continued to work as a postdoctoral fellow with his mentor, Professor Günter Schultz until 1994, when he joined the group of Melvin I. Simon at the California Institute of Technology's Division of Biology in Pasadena, USA. He returned to his alma mater as a recipient of the prestigious Heisenberg Scholarship in 1997 and received his habilitation for Pharmacology and Toxicology in 1998. Two years later, he was appointed to Full Professor and Director of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Heidelberg, where he also served as Vice Dean for Research of the Medical Faculty. Since 2008, he has been Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Bad Nauheim, as well as Professor of Pharmacology at the Goethe University, Frankfurt since 2009.

In the first two decades of his scientific career, G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) and their intracellular signaling pathways were the focus of his research. By developing and using transgenic animal models he was able to clarify important functions of heterotrimeric G-proteins in intracellular signaling and deorphanized several Free Fatty Acid and Hydroxy Carboxylic Acid Receptors. Based on the analysis of basic signaling processes mediated by heterotrimeric G-proteins in vascular cells, his research group also identified some of the upstream mechanosensing and mechanosignaling mechanisms in endothelial cells. By investigation of the interaction between tumor and endothelial cells in the context of metastasis formation his group recently identified a key mechanism mediating tumor cell extravasation and efficient metastasis formation. His current work focuses on the identification of physiological and pharmacological ligands of orphan GPCRs, the analysis of mechanotransduction mechanisms in the cardiovascular system, and on the mechanisms underlying tumor cell metastasis and dormancy.

Professor Offermanns has published over 300 papers, many of them appearing in top scientific journals like Science, Nature and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and his works have been cited over 20.000 times. He received the Fritz-Külz-Award and the Rudolf-Buchheim-Award of the German Pharmacological Society, the Ernst-Reuter-Award of Free University of Berlin, the Scientific Award for Basic Medical Science of the SmithKline Beecham Foundation, the Basic Science Honorary Award of the German Cardiac Society and the Feldberg Prize. Since 2006, he has been a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Professor Offermanns has intensive scientific collaborations with several institutions world-wide. In the last 16 years he hosted in his research group 6 PhD students and postdoctoral fellows from the Institute of Clinical Experimental Research of Semmelweis University, resulting in 7 publications in highly ranked journals including the Journal of Clinical Investigation, Nature Medicine and the FASEB Journal.