

## **Professor Rainer Schulz**

Professor Schulz had established and led an independent research group within the Department of Pathophysiology, University of Essen, Medical School and since 2011, he is the Chairman of Physiology at the Justus-Liebig University Giessen.

Professor Schulz achieved international recognition for research on myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury and protection from it. Since 2001 he has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles and 7 book chapters. He has over 21 thousand citations, H-index 78, moreover, in 2014 he was listed on HighlyCited Researcher list, the list of the most influential scientific minds. His research has advanced the field by being the first to: (1) demonstrate an inotropic reserve in chronically ischemic myocardium, a phenomenon used now routinely in daily clinical practice for identification of chronically ischemic myocardium; (2) to highlight the cross talk between protein kinases involved in cardioprotection, and (3) to demonstrate the mitochondrial location of a highly expressed cellular protein (named connexin 43) being essential for cardioprotection. The latter is of utmost importance since a number of human diseases (including genetic variations) are associated with reduced connexin 43 expression. He received numerous awards, such as e.g. the Young Investigator Award from the European Society of Cardiology, the Fraenkel and Franz-Groedel Award as well as the Basic Science Lecture Award of the German Cardiac Society. He served as Chairman of the Working Group on Cellular Biology of the Heart of the ESC and currently member of the European Council of the Society of Heart Research.

Professor Schulz started to collaborate with Prof. Péter Ferdinandy's research group 15 years ago. One of their papers has been selected as fast breaking paper by Thompson Scientific in 2007. Their research groups successfully completed several basic science and industrial projects that resulted in more than 30 common publications. Therefore, it has to be emphasized that Professor Schulz greatly contributed to the scientific output of the Semmelweis University. Looking at the number of currently ongoing collaborative scientific projects, the scientometrical output of collaborations with Professor Schulz will further increase. Therefore, it is a great honor for Semmelweis University to confer the title of doctor honoris causa of the Semmelweis University on Professor Schulz.