

**Paul Martini Symposium 2004
in connection with the German Academy of Natural
Scientists Leopoldina
"Drug therapy for children and adolescents – problems
and perspectives"**

The Paul Martini Foundation (PMS) sees itself as a mediator and wants to promote the discussion between researchers in academia and industry. To achieve this objective, the PMS organizes symposia and workshops and awards an annual prize.

The 2004 Paul Martini Symposium was held on November 12/13, 2004, for the first time in connection with the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina (Halle) and for the first time in Berlin. Based on the transfer from Mainz to Berlin to the immediate proximity of political decision-makers in Germany, the foundation intends to create even greater awareness of its scientific and health-policy concerns. With regard to this objective, the Paul Martini Foundation has a lot in common with the Leopoldina academy and its rich traditions.

During this symposium with about 120 participants, pediatricians and experts from ministries, authorities, associations and industry discussed possible improvements in the drug therapy of children. During the past few months, the media had featured increased coverage on this issue. As a result, this symposium also met with greater interest by journalists, who reported on it in several specialist journal articles.

The speakers expressed their regret that currently a significant share of pharmaceuticals in pediatrics has to be used without the express authorization for this age group. This can lead to safety problems with the treated children, since children are no small adults. As a result, strictly controlled clinical trials with children should be expanded, since children are exposed to a smaller risk during controlled studies than when being treated with pharmaceuticals that were only tested on adults. Problems and opportunities were illustrated with examples of special pharmacotherapy for children and adolescents. At the end of the symposium, the legal and regulatory requirements were presented, political initiatives were also explained on the European level and the support of clinical research in pediatrics was discussed.