

**Paul Martini Symposium 2006 in connection with the German  
Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina  
"Drug therapy of the critically ill patient on intensive care units"**

The non-profit organisation Paul Martini Foundation (PMS), Berlin, promotes pharmaceutical research as well as research concerning pharmaceutical therapy and intensifies scientific dialogue on questions regarding pharmaceutical research and development between medical scientists at universities, hospitals, the research-based pharmaceutical industry, other research institutions and government agencies. To achieve this objective, the PMS awards a large annual research prize and organizes workshops and symposia.

The scientific symposium held by the PMS in connection with the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina on November 17/18, 2006, in Berlin was used by over 130 participants from clinics, research institutions, sickness funds and industry to get information by leading scientists and experts on the current and future drug therapies on intensive care units and to hold intense discussions. The symposium was scientifically chaired by professors Peter C. Scriba from Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and Karl Werdan from the medical department of Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg.

With annually more than 150.000 patients and 60.000 fatal events alone in Germany, sepsis is a big challenge for drug therapy and nutrition: Further typical diseases requiring intensive care are multiorgan dysfunction syndrome (MODS), shock, acute heart failure and systemic inflammation reaction syndrome (SIRS). For all these patients the speakers presented the current available evidence on drug therapy and nutrition and reported on future treatment possibilities. The spectrum of the presentations included the effects of the reduction or even failure of the renal function on drug therapy and problems of intensive care patients with their digestion and with their cardiovascular and endocrine system. Several speakers informed on the importance of immunonutrition – the targeted supply of patients with substances which enforce their immune competence. A further main topic were infections and the innovative therapies in the field of antibiotics and antifungal drugs which had been authorised for marketing within the last few years or are currently in development.

Finally the importance of the recently finalised guidelines of the German Sepsis Society and the German Interdisciplinary Association for Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine were presented which should help to spread the current state of the art in the treatment of intensive care patients.