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in der
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To whom it may concern

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Berlin, November 29, 2010

Evaluation statement for the research project “Foundation of synapse and neurocircuit pathology”

The project started in 2010 with three subprojects focusing on synapse pathology (A01), circuit pathology (A02) and new techniques (A03). The overall aim of this collaborative project is to understand the molecular mechanisms of neurodegenerative, developmental and mental disorders using cell biological, biochemical and high-resolution imaging methods and technologies. In the longer term, it should also be possible to develop new therapeutic strategies for brain diseases based on the generated knowledge.

At the kick-off meeting on October 27th, 2010 the investigators of this collaborative project presented their specific project aims, which were then discussed intensively by a panel of national and international scientists in the field. From the presentations by Prof. Okazawa, Prof. Nukina and Prof. Hayashi it was clear that the projects are highly innovative and well structured, suggesting that they will lead to scientific results that will be highly relevant for a better understanding of disease pathogenesis. The consortium made it clear that they have at their disposal important technologies, like relevant disease models (fly, mouse), state of the art imaging technologies with the potential to be developed further, and know-how on modulators of pathogenic processes in neurodegenerative disorders.

The research focus on synapses, protein misfolding pathways and imaging technologies most probably will allow the identification of novel molecular targets that cause dysfunction in synapses and/or promote neurodegeneration, which is a prerequisite for the successful development of therapeutic strategies.

I am of the opinion that this very exiting, innovative research project has a very high potential to be a lighthouse in the neuroscience field and will also gain international visibility. I therefore support the aims of the research project “Foundation of synapse and neurocircuit pathology” without any reservations.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Erich E. Wanker