

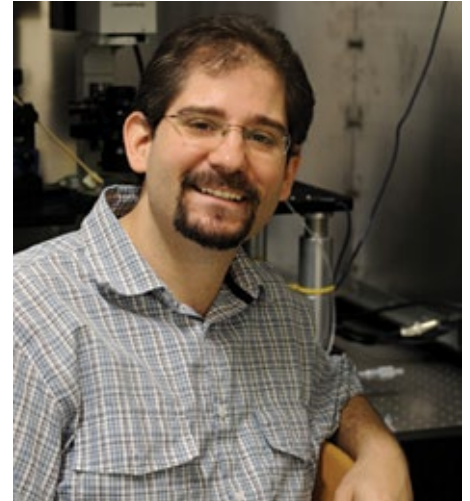
New Biophysics Austria award for young investigators

The Hansgeorg Schindler Young Investigator Award is a new award designed to promote collaboration between the Austrian biophysics community and leading academic centers around the world. The 2012 prize – sponsored by Tecan – was awarded to Dr Klaus Schicker, a postdoctoral fellow at the Medical University of Vienna, for his work on the characterization of the human serotonin transporter (hSERT) protein.

Named after Hansgeorg Schindler – founder of the Institute of Biophysics at the Johannes Kepler University of Linz and the forefather of single molecule microscopy – the award is presented to pre- or postdoctoral researchers for an important contribution to biophysics or quantitative biology. Dr Georg Pabst, President of Biophysics Austria, explained the origins of the award: “We wanted to create a new prize for young Austrian researchers that would help them to advance their scientific careers, as well as to strengthen international ties between biophysicists here in Austria and the wider scientific community. Rather than

being selected by members of Biophysics Austria, the winner is chosen by a committee of 15 leading representatives in the field from prestigious universities around the world. In addition, the prize is not a cash sum, but an all-inclusive travel bursary for the recipient to present their research at one of these institutions, helping them to achieve wider international recognition for their work.”

Dr Schicker’s research, using an extensive series of patch clamp experiments, demonstrated for the first time that hSERT goes through defined conformational changes during ion transport, offering unprecedented insights into the fundamental principles of its function. This research provides a framework for the exploration of transporter-associated current, and highlights the potential of hSERT as a direct, reliable and high resolution readout for future biophysical and pharmacological experiments. Dr Schicker received the award at the Biophysics Austria meeting at the ÖGMBT annual conference, and is planning



Dr Klaus Schicker was the first winner of the Hansgeorg Schindler Young Investigator Award

to present his work this summer at a leading university in the USA.

Applications for the 2013 Hansgeorg Schindler Young Investigator Award are already open. Visit www.biophysics-austria.at to learn more.



Dr Schicker was presented with the award by Barbara Schindler at the ÖGMBT annual conference