



## Press information

### Synthetic viruses - „life“ from a test tube? Second „Loeffler-Lecture“ in Greifswald

Greifswald - Insel Riems, 6 June 2013. On 11 June at 18.00 h, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut and the Alfred Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg cordially invite the public to attend the second „Loeffler Lecture“ at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Greifswald. Prof. Eckhard Wimmer from New York will give a talk on his groundbreaking, but also controversially discussed research work on the biology and molecular structure of the causative agent of poliomyelitis. The talk will be held in English. Prior to the „Loeffler-Lecture“ Prof. Wimmer will sign the guest book of the city of Greifswald in the wedding chamber of the city hall.

Eckard Wimmer was born in Berlin in 1936. He studied chemistry at the universities of Rostock and Göttingen where he received his doctorate degree in 1962. In 1979 he became professor in microbiology at the School of Medicine of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His research work focuses on poliovirus, the causative agent of poliomyelitis. Wimmer and his colleagues deciphered the poliovirus genome and elucidated its genetic structure. In 2002, he first succeeded in synthesizing a (polio)virus chemically. His research work contributed to the development of genetically modified vaccines. Eckard Wimmer is among others a member of the American Academy for Microbiology, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the National Academy of Sciences of the USA and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For his research he was honored with a series of awards, such as the Robert Koch Medal in gold, the Beijerinck Price in virology of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

The “Loeffler-Lecture” which picks up on current virological research subjects has been held annually since 2012 around Friedrich Loeffler’s birthday in June to commemorate his groundbreaking achievements in virology. Friedrich Loeffler, the discoverer of foot-and-mouth disease virus and founder of the science of virology, was born in Frankfurt/Oder on June 24, 1852. After his study of medicine in Würzburg and Berlin he worked together with Robert Koch. In 1888, he was appointed to the newly founded chair in hygiene in Greifswald. In 1898, Loeffler and Paul Frosch first described the causative agent of foot-and-mouth disease as a particular agent smaller than a bacterium which replicates in the host organism: a virus. On October 10, 1910 he founded the worldwide first virus research institute, today’s Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut.

**2nd Loeffler-Lecture 2013:**

Prof. Eckard Wimmer, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Stony Brook University, New York.

Subject: Synthetic Viruses - „life“ from a test-tube?

Date, Time: 11 June, 18.00 h

Place: Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg Greifswald, Martin-Luther-Straße 14, 17489 Greifswald

More information: [www.wiko-greifswald.de](http://www.wiko-greifswald.de)