



Press release – 84th European Atherosclerosis Society Congress, Innsbruck, Austria
For release Sunday, 29th May, 2016.

World-renowned Scientist Peter Carmeliet presents Anitschkow Lecture in Opening Ceremony

- 2016 Anitschkow Award recipient Dr. Peter Carmeliet, Vesalius Research Center, VIB - KU Leuven, Belgium discusses: *Endothelial cell metabolism: a novel player in atherosclerosis?*
- Opening Ceremony: Sunday 29th May, 2016; 18:00 - 19:45; N. Anitschkow Hall

Commenting on confirmation of the Anitschkow Award, Dr. Carmeliet said: *'Receiving the Anitschkow Award is a great honour and an important token of appreciation and impact of the work of our laboratory in the field of cardiovascular medicine.'*



In his research, Dr. Carmeliet focuses on unravelling the molecular basis of angiogenesis (i.e. the formation of blood vessels) and translating these genetic insights to therapeutic concepts and, if possible, novel treatments. Endothelial cells which line blood vessels are important players in atherosclerosis. They not only become dysfunctional, but also grow excessively, leading to the formation of new but structurally and functionally abnormal blood vessels, making atherosclerotic plaques more vulnerable. Dr. Carmeliet hypothesizes that maladaptation of endothelial cell metabolism contributes to this dysfunction, excess angiogenesis and vessel disorganization. Many of the changes in endothelial cells observed in atherosclerosis also occur in endothelial cells in tumours. In the Anitschkow lecture, Dr. Carmeliet will discuss parallels between these phenomena, and how changes in endothelial cell metabolism importantly control endothelial cell (patho)-biology. This in turn illustrates the therapeutic potential and benefit of pharmacological blockade of endothelial cell metabolic targets.

Dr. Carmeliet is the recipient of numerous awards. Most recently these include the J. Maisin Prize for Excellence, Brussels; Doctor Honoris Causa, Goethe University, Frankfurt (2010); the Blaise Pascal Medal in Medicine from the European Academy of Sciences (2011), Award of the Hubertus Wald Foundation, Hamburg, Germany (2013), and the Münster Heart Center Award, from University Hospital Münster, Germany (2015). In 2015, Dr. Carmeliet was appointed as Baron by King Filip of Belgium.

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