

The 10th anniversary of the Galenus Foundation

On the 6th of September 2014 the Galenus Foundation looked back on 10 highly successful years of supporting young scientists working in the fields of pharmaceutical technology and biopharmacy. To mark this anniversary the Board of the Galenus Foundation invited guests from as far afield as Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and, closer to home, Austria. The celebrations took place in the Eroica Hall of the Palais Lobkowitz in the heart of Vienna. This, as its name suggests, was where Beethoven conducted the première of his revolutionary 3rd Symphony, the Eroica, and so, in honour of the occasion, Prof. Wolfgang Capek (Vienna) performed the composer's Eroica Variations for piano (op.34, Eb major). The audience was swept away by his dazzling performance, from the fateful opening chords to its sparkling conclusion.

This inspiring opening was followed by a short recap of the work of the foundation over the preceding ten years. During this time more than 200 young scientists have received support and encouragement through the work of the foundation, which has rolled out an ever-expanding programme of grants and workshops to promising young researchers in the field of pharmaceutical technology and biopharmacy.

Honour was bestowed on the occasion by the presence of all the winners of the Galenus Technology Prize, the Galenus Guest Professors, their hosts, as well as the organizers of the international Galenus Workshops. No doubt many of these will play a role in the paths outlined in the keynote lecture, given by Prof. Leuenberger (Basel), on future trends in pharmaceutical technology. With everyone's cultural and intellectual appetites whetted by the music and scientific discourse, the proceedings reached their climax; the presentation of the Golden Scarab to Prof. Lippold, scientific adviser to the foundation, for his undying support for young researchers in Pharmaceutical Technology. As this token of the Foundation's esteem was being handed over, the audience rose to their feet and gave the professor a well-deserved standing ovation, and supporting the applause Prof. Capek embarked on an improvisation on Beethoven's "Ode to Joy".

After the obligatory group photo on the grand staircase of the Palais Lobkowitz, the remaining festivities continued until midnight.