Forschungsförderpreis 1999 of the Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft

The Award Committee of the Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft with the Members Prof. Dr. H. Bernhardt, Prof. Dr. H. C. Korting, PD Dr. M. Borg-von Zepelin, Dr. B. Hube and Dr. N. Ollert has decided to award the 8th Forschungsförderpreis (Advancement of Research Prize) to

Dr. med. Marianne Kretschmar, Mannheim.

The dotation of the prize amounts to 10.000 DM. The Committee and the entire Society are grateful to Janssen-Cilag, Neuss, for contributing half of this amount.

Curriculum vitae and scientific career. Marianne Kretschmar was born on January 7, 1959, in Jena, Thuringia. She finished her secondary education in 1977 and studied medicine from 1978 to 1985 at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, where she received the diploma of medicine in 1983. In 1985 she was licensed to practice medicine, and in the same year she started professional training as a microbiologist at the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene and the Department of Internal Medicine of the Jena University as well as at the Institute for Municipal Hygiene and Vaccination in Jena. In 1991 she was approved as a specialist in medical microbiology and hygiene. In 1990 she was promoted to Doctor of Medicine after finishing a thesis on "Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity following influenza virus infection and vaccination" under the supervision of Professor Schmidt in the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene of the Jena University. Since September 1991 Dr. Kretschmar is working as a scientific member at the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene of the University Hospital Mannheim, a Campus of the Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg headed by Professor H. Hof.

During the period 1985–1991 Dr. Kretschmar studied phenomena of adherence of *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and *Escherichia coli* to murine epithelial cells in a research project granted by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, especially engaged in characterizing various murine infection models in microbiological, immunological and immunohistochemical respects. She is involved in the development and characterization of new galenic preparations of antimycotic substances applying both in vitro essays and animal experiments. More recently she was investigating the characteristics of genetically altered fungal strains in animal experiments. Studies with bacteria concerned particularly intracellular microorganisms. Some titles of publications illustrate the broad spectrum of her scientific interests: "Modulation of murine candidiasis by FK506", "Rapid detection of susceptibility to fluconazole in *Candida* species by a bioluminescence assay of intracellular ATP", and "Effects of amphotericin B incorporated into liposomes and lipid suspensions in the treatment of murine candidiasis". Her most recent paper is entitled "Activated CD8+-T-cells as involved in elimination of *Candida albicans* from livers of mice".

Laudatio. Since 1991 Doctor Marianne Kretschmar was intensely engaged in research work focusing on animal models in medical mycology. Here fungal pathogen of choice was *Candida albicans*. A considerable number of papers resulting from her scientific work are published in internationally renowned journals. Here scientific objectives were in part supported by competitive funding from national research institutions. Therefore, Dr. Kretschmar fulfils the criteria established in the Statutes of the Forschungsförderpreis of the Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft. The Committee elected her to be the awardee in 1999.
The prize was handed over at the Gala Dinner of the 5th ECMM Congress MYK '99 at the Restaurant Bastei upon the Elbe River near Dresden on June 5, 1999.