

Press Release

Bernd Ebeling
Director
Corporate Communications

Fresenius SE
Else-Kröner-Straße 1
61352 Bad Homburg
Germany
T +49 6172 608-2378
F +49 6172 608-2294
bernd.ebeling@fresenius.com
www.fresenius.com

November 19, 2008

Method to diagnose atrial fibrillation wins Fresenius Inventors' Prize 2008

Bad Homburg – A jury of experts today awarded the Fresenius Inventors' Prize 2008 to a method to diagnose atrial fibrillation. Dr. Nicole Kikillus, an engineer from Karlsruhe, won first place and € 5,000 for her invention at the 10th Fresenius Inventors' Fair held during MEDICA, the world's largest medical trade fair. Second place and € 3,000 were awarded to Berlin physician Christoph Hirche, who, together with three colleagues, developed a procedure to identify and specifically remove lymph node tissue in cancer patients. Two inventions won the third prize because of their high quality. An award of € 2,000 each was given to Dr. Marc Jäger from Karlsruhe for a first-aid sensor system and Tanja Gainey from Heidelberg for a suspension system for a catheter bag on a wheelchair.

Atrial fibrillation is the most important clinical type of cardiac arrhythmia and increases the risk of stroke. Dr. Nicole Kikillus developed a very reliable method to detect atrial fibrillation, even if no atrial fibrillation occurs during the check up. Her software analyzes a 30- to 60-minute single-channel electrocardiogram (ECG). "An early diagnosis of atrial fibrillation patients allows for therapy and therefore reduces the chances of stroke," Kikillus said. "My procedure can be quickly and easily applied; therefore it can even be used for a large number of patients."

The second place team of Christoph Hirche developed a fluorescent method to identify and perform a sentinel node biopsy in cancer patients. The procedure does not expose patients to radiation and is simpler compared to existing methods that have the same reliability. The procedure can therefore also be used in smaller

hospitals. The sentinel node biopsy should prevent, for example, the removal of too many lymph nodes from the armpit area for a breast cancer operation, thereby preventing swelling in the arm after the operation. Dr. Marc Jäger won third place for a first-aid sensor system as big as a coin. During an emergency, first-aid workers can use the sensor to measure and diagnose a patient's pulse and breathing to determine if resuscitation is needed. Also receiving third place was an invention by Tanja Gainey – a suspension system that attaches a catheter bag under a wheelchair. The system prevents urine from going back into the bladder and allows patients to reach the bag and empty it themselves.

Twenty researchers and developers presented their ideas at the Fresenius Inventors' Fair. A jury comprising medical specialists and business representatives picked the winners. With the Inventors' Fair, Fresenius aims to support inventors to find partners from business and industry as well as potential investors to market and further develop their ideas. Fresenius provides a free booth to all presenters, where they can display their inventions to experts and media from around the world. This year about 50 doctors, engineers, scientists, technicians and care professionals submitted proposals for the fair. The Fresenius Inventors' Fair is held every two years during MEDICA. In the past year, more than 137,000 foreign and local visitors attended MEDICA.

We can send you photos of the winners on request.

The Fresenius Inventor's Fair can be found at MEDICA in Hall 8b. MEDICA is open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. from November 19 to 21 in Düsseldorf. Additional information on the Inventors' Fair may be found at www.fresenius-erfindermesse.de, and on MEDICA at www.medica.de.

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Fresenius is a health care group with international operations, providing products and services for dialysis, hospital and outpatient medical care. In 2007, group sales were approx. € 11.4 billion. On September 30, 2008 the Fresenius Group had 121,288 employees worldwide.

For more information visit the Company's website at www.fresenius.com.

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