



Fight Rheumatic Diseases: Annual Meeting of the European Training Network OSTEOIMMUNE in Berlin

Inflammatory rheumatic diseases affect millions of European citizens causing chronic pain, disability and premature death. Curative treatments are lacking and conventional research often focuses on one single organ system such as the bone or the immune system and ignores interactions between organ systems. OSTEOIMMUNE is a European supra-disciplinary training network that targets this gap by providing comprehensive, structured and coherent training. This year the annual meeting of OSTEOIMMUNE takes place from August 30 to September 3, 2014 at Deutsches Rheumaforschungszentrum (DRFZ) in Berlin (Germany) and combines scientific lectures, soft skill training and discussions about ethics and communication of science.

The session “Science & Society”, funded by the Schering Stiftung, is a special event during the annual meeting. Dr. Tyrone Hayes, American biologist and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will give a keynote lecture about the area of conflict between scientific research effort and economic as well as political interest. Prof. Hayes is an eminent endocrinologist who has received extraordinary (and not always welcome) attention for societal issues surrounding his work on the influence of atrazines, a class of herbicides on the development of frogs. When his results did not meet the expectations of his industrial collaborators, a stormy debate started, broadly covered by popular media. As a result, Prof. Hayes has been required to reflect continually on the ethics and consequences of his work and how to communicate his work to the public.

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The program can be downloaded under www.osteimmune.eu.

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