Meet Our Editorial Board Member

Cordian Beyer

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Prof. Dr. Cordian Beyer studied archeology from the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, Germany, and later biology from the University Ulm in Ulm, Germany. In 1988, he graduated with a Masters in Biology (topic: organization of peptidergic systems in the rodent brain) being one of the top 5% students. Afterward, he started his Ph.D. project at the University Ulm in the Department Anatomy and Cell Biology (headed by Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Pilgrim) focusing on cellular effects of gonadal steroids on brain cells. He obtained his Ph.D. degree with a first-class honor in Biology from the University Ulm in 1991. Thereafter, he was granted with a Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) post-doc fellowship and a fellowship of the British Royal Society to spend several years until 1994 at the Neuroendocrine Unit at the MRC Babraham in Cambridge, UK (headed by Dr. Hutchison) studying the regulation of the aromatase gene in the mammalian CNS. After returning to Ulm, he was appointed as an assistant professor in 1996, finished his Habilitation in Anatomy, and later in 2001 as an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. During this period, his major research focus was set on non-classical steroid signaling and the involved receptor structures in brain cells. He was a project leader in the Sonderforschungsbereich (SFB 497) "signals of cellular differentiation" and received several other external and internal funding from the DFG and others. In the same period, he obtained fellowships abroad of up to three months from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) to visit research institutes such as the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Milan, the Instituto Cajal in Madrid, and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow. This very fruitful period ended in 2003, when became an Academic Director position at the Institute of Anatomy at the University Tuebingen, Germany. More and more, his research interest concentrated from then on the role of astroglia and microglia in the brain and their regulation by steroid hormones and other regulatory factors. In 2005, he was finally elected to become the head of the Institute of Neuroanatomy at the RWTH Aachen, Germany. His research focus now started to develop and include relevant animal models for acute and chronic brain diseases such as ischemic stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Particular interest was given to the complex interactions between astrocytes and microglia in neuroinflammatory processes including pyroptosis and inflammasomes. A few years ago, he was interested in the regulatory function of non-coding RNAs for the regulation of both glial cell types. An additional and completely new research field was started about 5 years ago, concentrating on the cellular pathology in the brain and gut of patients suffering from anorexia nervosa (AN) together with the group of PD Dr Seitz at the Clinic for Child Psychiatry at the University Clinic Aachen (UKA). For that, we also established an AN-relevant rat model (activity-based anorexia nervosa, ABA). Over the years, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Cordian Beyer published more than 300 scientific publications, held more than 100 scientific lectures worldwide, received grants in the magnitude of more than eight million Euros, and became Editorial Board Member of several international journals.

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