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**Academic Aspirations in Drug Discovery:
Bridging the Gap Between Dream and Reality**

Prof. Dr. Jürg Gertsch

Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

University of Bern

27.02.2024, 4:15 pm
Lecture hall EG16, DCBP

Abstract:

This colloquium delves into the multifaceted challenges and opportunities confronting academic researchers as they venture into the realm of drug discovery. Drawing on concrete examples from the NCCR TransCure, we examine the practicality of transforming academic visions for novel therapies into tangible pharmaceutical outcomes. The discussion encompasses adept navigation through laboratory intricacies, particularly in conducting pivotal proof-of-concept studies, addressing funding limitations, and managing collaboration dynamics. Emphasizing academia's pivotal role, the colloquium underscores its increasing significance in driving innovation within the biotech landscape.

About the speaker: Prof. Dr. Jürg Gertsch

Jürg Gertsch studied cultural anthropology at the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) and Neurosciences and Biochemistry at Sussex University (UK) and the Biozentrum Basel. He received his M.Sc. in Biochemistry (1997) and his Dr.sc.nat. in pharmacognosy, ethnobotany and natural product chemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich in 2002 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Otto Sticher and Prof. Dr. Sir Ghilleen Prance (Kew Gardens, London). Between 2003 and 2009 he was postdoc and then group leader at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the laboratory of Prof. Karl-Heinz Altmann at ETH Zurich. Since 2009 he is Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Biology at the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern.

Dr. Gertsch's research focuses on molecular pharmacology of the endocannabinoid system and drug discovery, cannabinoid pharmacology and translational research. His research group works on projects related to chemical biology, neuropharmacology and biochemical pharmacology of lipids, but also engages with fieldwork related to ethnopharmacology and with a focus on translation. Since 2014 he is Deputy and Co-Director of the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the University of Bern. He is a co-founder of Synendos Therapeutics.

