

## **Research into acceleration of articular cartilage wins AGA-DonJoy Award 2008**

Our congratulations go to the deserving 2008 winners of the AGA-DonJoy Award which was presented to Priv.-Doz Dr. med. Henning Madry on behalf of his team during this year's AGA Congress at Interlaken, Switzerland in September.

A range of research papers were submitted to the members of the AGA Committee earlier this year which were assessed by Committee members Dr. Becker (Magdeburg), Dr. Eichhorn (Straubing), Prof. Petersen (Berlin) and Prim. Univ. Doz. Dr. Boszotta (Eisenstadt/Austria).

After much consideration, the Committee decided to award this prestigious prize to the research team led by Henning Madry MD who is Head of the Laboratory for Experimental Orthopaedics and an Attending Physician at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Saarland University Medical Center, Homburg/Saar, Germany for their ground-breaking cartilage research focusing on the acceleration of articular cartilage repair by combined gene transfer of human insulin-like growth factor-I and fibroblast growth factor-2 in vivo. Dr Madry commented: "This is the first in vivo study that shows that a combination of chondrogenic growth factors is better than the application of a single factor alone to enhance articular cartilage repair. We will next test this approach in a large animal model in order to better understand the mechanisms of cartilage repair using overexpression of chondrogenic genes".

The German/US research team included Dr Madry's colleagues, Magali Cucchiari PhD, Patrick Orth MD, Dieter Kohn MD and Gunter Kaul, PhD together with Michael D Menger, MD from the Institute for Experimental Surgery, Department of Surgery, Saarland University Medical Center, at Homburg and David Zurakowski, PhD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Biostatistics at Harvard Medical School, Boston.

The award and prize money was handed over by our German Managing Director, Rüdiger Hausherr and AGA president Prof. Dr. Christian Fink (Vienna). Dr Madry said: "On behalf of my colleagues and myself, it means a great deal to have won this award and we will continue to strive for scientific excellence in our research in order to provide novel treatment options for patients with articular cartilage defects.

Previous winners of the AGA-DonJoy Award include Dr Frank N. Unterhauser and Dr Christian Staerke 2003, Dr Agneskirchner in 2004 and Dr Christain Staerke, Dr Tomas Tischer and Dr Thore Zantop in 2006.