

MINERVA FOUNDATION'S BROR-AXEL LAMBERG PRIZE IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

The first Minerva Foundation's Bror-Axel Lamberg Prize in Endocrinology was awarded to Professor Jorma Toppari from the University of Turku. The award ceremony took place on Thursday, November 2, 2017, in Biomedicum Helsinki at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Finnish Endocrine Society. The chair of Minerva Foundation, Professor Caj Haglund, presented the prize.

The Bror-Axel Lamberg Prize in Endocrinology is a 10 000 € prize awarded every other year to a distinguished Finnish or Nordic scientist in the field of endocrinology. The Finnish Endocrine Society nominates three candidates for the prize, from whom Minerva Foundation selects the winner. The first prize, in 2017, was awarded to a Finnish scientist.

The winner of the first Bror-Axel Lamberg Prize, Jorma Toppari, is Professor of Physiology at the University of Turku and Chief Pediatric Physician at Turku University Hospital. He received his MD degree (Licentiate of Medicine) in 1983 and defended his doctoral thesis only three years later in 1986. Professor Toppari has docentships from both the University of Turku (in Anatomy) and University of Helsinki (in Pediatrics), and he has been appointed as an honorary professor of the University of Copenhagen and acted as a visiting professor at the University of Chile.

Before the Bror-Axel Lamberg Prize, Professor Toppari has been awarded the Unto Uotila award (Young Investigator Award) in 1993 and the Helena and Niilo Hallman award (Pediatric Research Award) in 1998. Professor Toppari has supervised nearly twenty doctoral theses and acted as an opponent for doctoral dissertations more than twenty times. He has also acted as editor-in-chief and a member of the editorial board for several international scientific journals.



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Winner of the 2017 Bror-Axel Lamberg Prize in Endocrinology, Professor Jorma Toppari.

Professor Toppari's scientific bibliography includes more than 360 articles in refereed scientific journals and more than 100 other publications. At present, Professor Toppari and his research team are focusing on the early determinants of reproductive health.

Bror-Axel Lamberg (March 1, 1924 – May 4, 2014)

Bror-Axel Lamberg got his MD degree in 1949, after which his career continued in the Fourth Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Helsinki. Professor Johannes Wahlberg led Lamberg to study the thyroid-stimulating hypophysis hormone TSH. Lamberg was a pioneer in radioimmunoassays and he defended his doctoral thesis in 1953 on using radioactive phosphorus to measure TSH.

After his defense, Lamberg and his co-workers studied the lack of iodine in the Finnish population. His studies played an important part in having iodine added to common salt in Finland, which led to the eradication of endemic goiter. In 1971, Lamberg was appointed professor of endocrinology at the University of Helsinki. He performed his clinical work primarily at the HUS clinics in Meilahti.

Professor Bror-Axel Lamberg was awarded many prizes, including the Matti Äyräpää prize in 1979 and the J.W. Runeberg prize in 1985. During his active career, he acted as a chair and member of many societies and foundations. He was also granted honorary membership of several societies.

Professor Bror-Axel Lamberg was one of the founders of Minerva Foundation in 1959. The Foundation was formed to maintain the activity of Minerva Foundation Institute for Medical Research. His endocrinological research team was one of the first to start their research at the newly founded institution at a small hospital, Konkordia, in Helsinki. Professor Bror-Axel Lamberg was the first head of the Institute from 1959 to 1970.

Professor Lamberg was also one of the founders of the clinical service laboratory Medix Ltd. in 1964. From those days Medix has expanded and now consists of several companies offering clinical laboratory services, diagnostic bioreagents and rapid point-of-care tests. These companies are highly successful and offer crucial financial support to Minerva Foundation and Research Institute.

