

New biotechnical enterprise NeuroProof GmbH founded in Rostock

On the 16th of January 2007, the enterprise NeuroProof GmbH was founded by scientists from Rostock as a spin off of the Department of Animal Physiology lead by the University of Rostock's Prof. Dieter G. Weiss. It is going to have its principal office at the Technologiepark Warnemünde. The enterprise will offer the testing of substances being suitable as drugs for treating diseases of the central nervous system to pharmaceutical companies all over the world.

NeuroProof GmbH starts with five staff members around Dr. Alexandra Gramowski and Dr. Olaf Schröder. It is financed by the scientific foundation of Mecklenburg Western-Pommerania and by M.O.R.E. Invest GmbH. In 2005, the business plan competition of Mecklenburg Western-Pommerania 'Venturesail' has awarded a prize within the category 'researcher team' to the founders Dr. Alexandra Gramowski and Dr. Olaf Schröder.

The founders developed a procedure which considerably simplifies and accelerates the development of such CNS drugs during a five year researching project 'Innovation network biosystematics technology'. This researching project was supported as state main research by the state Mecklenburg-Western-Pommerania and by the European Union.

Only few enterprises throughout the world are able to cultivate nervous cells on neuro-chips with micro-electrode arrays and are actually offering it. Through this technology the specific nervous tissue taken from foetal mice can be kept alive for a long period, for days and weeks. Micro-electrode arrays record the electronic action patterns of single nervous cells in the network and can be interpreted afterwards. Thus, the effect of CNS drugs can be examined directly and precisely in a way which was not possible before. These investigations are offered as a service to pharmacological companies by NeuroProof GmbH.

NeuroProof GmbH is going to accomplish a considerable contribution to the development of new neuro-pharmaceuticals in collaboration with its cooperation partners. For example, the promoters of the enterprise participate in a project supported by the EU. This project aims to develop a novel analgesic for brain tumour patients.

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