



**Press release Oct 8, 2015**

## **Dresden biophysicist receives the 2015 Sackler Prize in Biophysics endowed with US\$ 50.000**

**Prof. Dr. Stephan Grill honored for excellent research in the field of mesoscopic physics of cell structure and dynamics**

**Dresden. Stephan Grill, professor at the Biotechnology Center of TU Dresden wins the 2015 Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize for Biophysics. Professor Grill receives this award for his outstanding contributions to the physics of intracellular actomyosin networks and the discovery of the mechanism of chiral morphogenesis.**

Cells are the unit of life. Mesoscopic physics is a discipline that deals with materials on intermediate length scales, not far away from its building blocks. The building blocks of cells are the myriads of tiny protein machines, acting together to perform specific tasks. In recent years scientist have recognized that it is important to describe cell structure and dynamics with mesoscopic physics approaches in order to understand how cells work. Stephan Grill has made key contributions to this field through his discovery of a novel physical mechanism that allows a cell to tell left from right, for which he is now awarded this prestigious prize.

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize for Biophysics was established through the generosity of Dr. Raymond and Mrs. Beverly Sackler at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Professor Grill will receive the prize in person at Tel Aviv University on December 15 this year. "I am very happy to receive this recognition. This is one of the most renowned awards in Biophysics and this is also a testimony to scientific excellence at TU Dresden and the support that institutes like the BITOEC have received over the years. We do fantastic science here, and clearly this is well received by the international scientific community", says Stephan Grill. The prize is shared between Stephan Grill and Nieng Yan from Tsinghua University Beijing.

Stephan Grill's research group at the BIOTEC is interested in understanding the forces that allow an embryo to grow into a fully structured and formed organism. For this the group combines several disciplines, cell and developmental biology with biophysics and theory. Following his studies of Physics at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg he worked at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and did

his doctorate at the TU München in 2002. He continued his research as a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG) in Dresden from 2001 – 2004 and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the U.S. from 2004-2006. He then joined the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems (MPI-PKS) and the MPI-CBG as research group leader. Since 2013, he is Professor of Biophysics at the BITOEC of TU Dresden.

Stephan Grill has published more than 50 publications, many of them in highly renowned scientific journals. He has been awarded several prizes for his scientific success, e.g. 2009 the Award for Research Cooperation and Highest Excellence in Science (ARCHES) of the German Ministry of Education and Research and the Minerva Foundation, the EMBO Young Investigator Award in 2010 and the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstädter Nachwuchspreis in 2011. This year he was appointed as Max Planck Fellow.

Further information: [https://english.tau.ac.il/sackler\\_prize\\_in\\_biophysics](https://english.tau.ac.il/sackler_prize_in_biophysics)

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The **Biotechnology Center** was founded in 2000 as a central scientific unit of the TU Dresden with the goal of combining modern approaches in molecular- and cell biology with the traditionally strong engineering in Dresden. The BIOTEC plays a central role in the “Molecular Bioengineering and Regenerative Medicine” profile of the TU Dresden, fostering developments in the new field of Biotechnology/Biomedicine. The center focuses on cell biology, nanobiotechnology, and bioinformatics. [www.biotec.tu-dresden.de](http://www.biotec.tu-dresden.de)

