



15 November 2018

**Press release of the Bridge Forum Dialogue conference ‘*Understanding neurodegenerative diseases*’ on Thursday 15 November 2018 at 6.30 p.m., by Professor Michel GOEDERT, Programme Leader at the Medical Research Council, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge**

The Bridge Forum Dialogue organised in cooperation with the University of Luxembourg a conference under the title: ‘*Understanding neurodegenerative diseases*’ on Thursday 15 November 2018 at 6.30 p.m. The speaker was **Professor Michel GOEDERT**, Programme Leader at the Medical Research Council, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge. The event was hosted at the European Parliament, Robert Schuman Building.

**Professor Rudi BALLING**, Director at the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB), University of Luxembourg, introduced the speaker as well as the subject matter of the conference.

Professor Goedert explained that the formation of abnormal filamentous protein assemblies characterises over 90% of cases of late-onset neurodegenerative disease in humans. Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s are the most common of these diseases. Most cases of disease are sporadic, but some are inherited. Close links exist between filament formation and the causes of the inherited forms of disease, hence the title of this lecture. By extension, it is believed that filament formation underlies all cases of neurodegenerative disease.

Professor Goedert proceeded with a review of his work, which helped to identify the microtubule-associated protein tau and the protein alpha-synuclein as the major components of the filaments found in the majority of neurodegenerative diseases, and to show that their formation causes neurodegeneration and cell death.

A large and distinguished audience gathered for this event, including members from European institutions and bodies, numerous public authorities and actors of the academic, economic and social sphere as well as students.

The presentation was followed by a stimulating questions and answers session.

More information will be made available on the website of the Bridge Forum Dialogue a.s.b.l.:  
[www.forum-dialogue.lu](http://www.forum-dialogue.lu).

**Photo: from left to right:**

**Ms Erna Hennicot Schoepges** (Former Minister, Former MEP, Vice President of ICD Institute of Cultural Diplomacy Berlin), **Pr Michel Goedert** (Speaker), **Pr Pallage** (Rector of the University of Luxembourg, Member of the Board of Forum), **Mr Valter Mavric** (Director General of the European Parliament, Member of the Executive Committee of the Forum), **Ms Cathy Waibel** (Head of Unit of the European Parliament, Alternate Member of the Executive Committee of the Forum)

