Obesity Research
and the Health Research
Programme
of the German Federal
Government

Joachim Krebser
BMBF

Obesity Research in Germany and France - State of the Art and future Perspectives
Outline

• Research funding in Germany
• The Health Research Programme
• The roadmap process
• Competence Network Obesity
• Institutional funding
• Related national funding activities
Research funding in Germany

Responsibility for research

Federal government

16 federal states
Research funding in Germany

- **DFG** (project funding)
- **Universities** (running costs by federal states)
  - **National Research Centres** (Helmholtz Association)
    - (90% F: 10% L)
  - **Max-Planck Society**
    - (50% F: 50% L)
  - **Institutes of WGL** (Leibniz Association)
    - (50% F: 50% L)
  - **Institutes of Fraunhofer Society**
    - (30% F/ 30% L/application)

**Federal Ministries**
- **BMBF**, federal ministry
- **federal states ministries**

**Project funding**
The programme of the Federal Government:
"Health Research - Research for People"

BMBF

Directorate 6: Life sciences

Programme „Biotechnology“

Programme „Health Research“
150 Mio. € in 2008

Planning 2009 - 2012
Health Research: 595 Mio. €

Obesity
„Roadmap“ Process

Published by the German Health Research Council (GFR) of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in November 2007

Purpose:
• Systematic review and foresight to carry the governmental Health Research Programme forward

• Identification of foreseeable challenges to health research in coming years

• Denotation of priority research topics or – methods for science, health care and industrial exploitation
Roadmap….

……on „Nutritional and metabolic diseases plus endocrinological diseases“

1. Nutritive and hormonal regulation of food intake: the brain as a target of anti-adipose and anti-diabetic therapy
2. Foetal and infantile focus: significance for the development of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases
3. Nutritional behaviour: mechanisms, implementation strategies and economic consequences
4. Development, degeneration and regeneration of hormone-producing cells
5. Molecular mode of action of nutrients
6. Mitochondria, energy metabolism and ageing
Competence Networks in Medicine

Effective Disease Control

- basic research
- clinical studies
- tasks like information or awareness measures

Health Care System Research

- Horizontal Networking
- Vertical Networking

Research Structures
Risk-factors and secondary diseases caused by Obesity

- food supply
- eating habits
- reduced physical activity
- genetic factors

Obesity

- cardiovascular diseases
  - artherosclerosis, high blood pressure, chronic inflammatory processes

- metabolic diseases
  - diabetes mellitus type 2, fatty liver

- mobility deficiencies

- different kinds of cancer
  - e.g. breast cancer

- neurological and mental illnesses
  - eating disorder, dementia, fits of depression
1. funding period
speaker: Prof. Dr. Hans Hauner
University of Munich
Duration of funding: 01.07.2008 – 30.09.2011
Total funds: ca. 10 Mio. €
Website: www. kompetenznetz-adipositas.de

Within the network currently 8 different research groups are funded.

Further funding periods till 2020 are planned.
Research focuses:

- prevention and therapy of obesity in childhood and adolescence using preexisting cohorts
- Improvement of long term results of therapies in obese adults
- Research of central and peripheral mechanism, that are involved in the pathophysiology of obesity and its complications
Other project funding

Competence Network on Diabetes mellitus

Prevention research

National Genome Research Network
German Institute of Human Nutrition (DIfE), Potsdam
Mission: to improve human health through experimental and clinical research in the field of nutrition.

German Research Center for Environmental Health (HMGU), München
Mission: to investigate chronic diseases, which develop from the interaction of environmental factors and individual genetic disposition.
Collaborative call for proposals between Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France and Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the field of “Genomics and Physiopathology of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases” was launched in December 2008.
Related national funding activities

„IN FORM – Germans initiative for healthy diet and more exercise“
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), and
Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

„Alliance for action for healthy lifestyle and habitat“, Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Research funding of DFG

Bilateral funding measure of DFG and ANR
Thank you for your attention

additional informations:

www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de
www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/2042.php
www.kompetenznetz-adipositas.de