

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, 29th April 2021
PM 2021-04-01**STIFTUNG CHARITÉ REAFFIRMS
COMMITMENT TO LIFE SCIENCES IN BERLIN****Continued support for the Private Excellence Initiative // Launch of a new topic "Open Life Science"**

An injection of additional private funds from the Quandt and Klatten families will enable Stiftung Charité to remain a strong supporter of the life sciences in Berlin over the coming years. This decision was announced by Stefan Quandt, entrepreneur and donor to Stiftung Charité, on behalf of both families in the recent spring meeting of the Board of Trustees. "We are delighted to see the extraordinarily positive development of the foundation established by our mother, Johanna Quandt. Over the coming years, Stiftung Charité will continue to foster and fund the life and medical sciences in Berlin," adds Stefan Quandt after the meeting during which the decision taken together with his sister, entrepreneur Susanne Klatten, was made.

Stiftung Charité was established in 2005 by Johanna Quandt to support the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and its partner institutions for the entire spectrum of research and teaching, patient care and technology transfers. In 2013, the Johanna Quandt Private Excellence Initiative was added to the activities to provide additional resources to the promotion of the life sciences in Berlin, particularly through funding programs for top-level scientists at all career stages. Stefan Quandt and Susanne Klatten assumed responsibility for the financing of the Private Excellence Initiative after their mother passed away in 2015.

Funding will now continue for an additional five years commencing in January 2022 with approx. EUR 15 million made available, as agreed in resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees. Stiftung Charité intends to dedicate these funds to its continued involvement in the promotion of innovation and to extend and develop funding programs that have proven successful thus far, particularly those for outstanding scholars. Stiftung Charité has also set its eyes on a new focus for the future: The closer alignment of academic research and societal issues within the context of "Open Life Science". "The COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the major social contribution made by the life sciences and the university hospitals to the formation of opinions," Prof. Dr. E. Jürgen Zöllner, Chairman of Stiftung Charité explains the new approach. "At the same time, we need to do more to ensure that research findings and their applications in patient care are not only more recognized and used by the public, but also integrated and further developed with the involvement of civil society."

"We would like to thank Stiftung Charité for renewing its funding commitment and look forward to its plenty new ideas. Stiftung Charité is a key initiator and funder for Charité and countless other institutions in Berlin and elsewhere", adds Prof. Dr. Heyo K. Kroemer, Chairman of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and member of the Board of Trustees.

In its meeting, the Board of Trustees also approved changes to the members of the foundation's bodies. Dr. Markus Baumanns has retired from the Board of Trustees by rotation. Prof. Dr. E. Jürgen Zöllner resigned from his position as Member of the Executive Board after 9 years and now joins the Stiftung Charité Board of Trustees as Chairman. Dr. Jörg Appelhans now represents Stiftung Charité in the Executive Board solely. Dr. André Lottmann has taken over leadership of the head office in Berlin.

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About Stiftung Charité

Stiftung Charité is an independent charitable foundation. It was endowed in 2005 by entrepreneur Johanna Quandt, who entrusted it with the mission of supporting the innovative potential and excellence of Berlin's university medicine, which can look back on a rich tradition in medical research and patient care. Since then, Stiftung Charité has been a key promoter and creative driving force for the life and medical sciences in Berlin. It supports projects across the broad spectrum of research, teaching, health care in addition to transfers of knowledge and technology. Funding from Stiftung Charité helps to support talented individuals and scholars. Since 2014, Stiftung Charité has also supported the life sciences in Berlin with the Johanna Quandt Private Excellence Initiative to provide funding to top-level scientists at all career stages, from students to professors. More information: www.stiftung-charite.de/en