

**Speech held by Lord Mayor Jürgen Roters on the occasion of the founding of the European Cardiology Section Foundation (ECSF) on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 11 hrs, at the Historical City Hall in the Hanseatic Hall**

Professor Fras,  
Professor Griebenow,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to cordially welcome you to the Historical City Hall in the City of Cologne. I am pleased to be able to greet you on such a happy occasion.

The decision to found the European Cardiology Section Foundation and especially to locate its headquarters in Cologne further strengthens the city's position as a location for health care. Above all, the city of Cologne as a centre for cardiology will continue to be promoted.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
The cluster of medicine and health is one of the strongest growing branches in the Cologne / Bonn business region. The region has a higher than average level of capacity in medical research, prevention, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation. The healthcare industry employs more than 60,000 people.

Cologne is a centre of excellence in precisely the area of cardiology for both research and care. The „Kölner Infarkt Modell“ is an initiative of the City of Cologne Emergency Medical Services and of 16 Cologne clinics providing the optimum level of care for patients after an acute heart attack. This leading model for the whole of Germany improves the survival chances through optimized co-operation during initial treatment – and all this in a city of more than 1 million citizens and a very complex care structure.

In order to provide competent and individually tailored care after initial treatment, cardiologists, heart specialists with their own practices, heart surgeons, vascular

surgeons, sports doctors and radiologists have together founded the "Kooperatives Kölner Herzzentrum beidseits des Rheins".

Something which I cannot leave unmentioned at this point is the co-operation between the cardiac department of the Cologne University Hospital and the City of Cologne regarding information on the functioning of lifesaving defibrillators. 80 to 90 percent of all fatalities involving cardiac arrests could be avoided by the "heartfelt" intervention of the average man or woman in the street. One such device was installed in the Historical City Hall last October - more will follow in other city buildings.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to recall 19<sup>th</sup> April last year when the ground breaking ceremony for the new building of the Cologne-Merheim Clinical Centre was celebrated. This is part of a 70 million Euro development plan to modernize and consolidate various centres of the municipal hospitals. Just as in Cologne-Merheim we have been able to witness in the previous year at many sites throughout the city an increase in building activity in the health sector. One of these projects is the erection of numerous new buildings on the grounds of the University of Cologne and the University Hospital, including for example the new laboratory building for the Centre for Molecular Medicine (CMMC) and the building of the Cluster of Excellence for Ageing Research of the University of Cologne, CECAD. Here as well as at the new Max Planck Institute for the Biology of Ageing, international top researchers will find ideal conditions for their research work in Cologne.

Ladies and gentlemen,

in order to support and network the many and varied opportunities throughout Cologne and the region for science, research, business, care and the other areas within the cluster of medicine and health, the City of Cologne, together with partners from science, business and administration, founded the association „Gesundheitsregion KölnBonn e. V.“ on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

The association intends to integrate still more closely the already existing skills and potential within the area of medicine and health. In addition, the aim is to develop the

Cologne / Bonn Region into a nationally and internationally known and recognized location for health care.

Professor Griebenow,

You have played an integral role in promoting Cologne as the headquarters of the European Cardiology Section Foundation. I would like to thank you very much for your commitment.

I would be very pleased if the foundation could be developed into a vital part of the „Cologne location for health care“.