

PRESS RELEASE

DGSM Research Grant

Date: 16 October 2008

Weinmann supports future scientists: New concept for explanation of sleep disorders

Hamburg – The research grant awarded by the German Sleep Society (DGSM) goes to Freiburg this year. Today during the opening ceremonies at the annual DGSM convention, the 6500-euro grant was presented to the physician and psychologist Dr. Kai Spiegelhalter of the University Hospital Freiburg.

His dissertation on the subject "Attentional Bias in Primary Insomnia" impressed the DGSM jury. In his work he examined and summarized the current state of research on sleep disorders. "New psychological concepts on primary insomnia point out that focusing attention on the sleep disorder essentially contributes to maintaining the problem of insomnia," Spiegelhalter explained. That could have an effect on the treatment of psychogenic sleep disorders and should also be taken into consideration in cases of somatic sleep disorders.

The DGSM awards the research grant every year in recognition of groundbreaking work in the areas of basic research or diagnostic and therapeutic processes in sleep medicine. Sponsor of the grant is the Hamburg medical technology firm Weinmann, which, among other things, develops and manufactures devices and system solutions for sleep therapy and sleep diagnostics. "Weinmann has taken up the cause of promoting future scientists and engineers," said Tobias Drewling, head of Corporate Communication at Weinmann. "The company is committed to providing in-house training programs and to supporting up-and-coming scientists with grants like this one."

The 31-year-old Dr. Spiegelhalter is a native of Hamburg and a staff member in the department for psychiatry and psychology at the University Hospital Freiburg. Earlier this year he earned his doctorate in medicine with a thesis on the subject "Neuroimaging Examinations of the Pathophysiology of Restless Legs Syndrome". The doctoral examination procedure of his work on the subject of "Attentional Bias in Primary Insomnia" has begun.

(1997 characters)

Background: Weinmann

Weinmann Geräte für Medizin GmbH + Co. KG concentrates on its product lines Homecare, Emergency and Diagnostics. In these areas the Hamburg-based family business offers diagnostic, therapeutic and also life-saving devices and system solutions of the highest quality. Today it is in the hands of the Griefahn and Feldhahn families and its headquarters have been located in Hamburg-Stellingen since 1977.

Today the company has about 500 employees. With more than 100 patent families and 90 trademarks, Weinmann is among the leading providers of medical devices for home care, diagnostics and emergency medicine in Germany. Sales in 2007 were 65.5 million Euros. Weinmann does business in more than 50 countries and operates branch offices in France, Switzerland, Thailand, China, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

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