The Leopoldina originated in 1652 as a classical scholarly society and now has 1,600 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.

The Leopoldina champions the freedom and appreciation of science. It promotes a scientifically enlightened society and the responsible application of scientific insight for the benefit of humankind and the natural world. In its interdisciplinary discourse, the Academy transcends thematic, political and cultural boundaries. It is also an advocate of human rights.

**Event location**
Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina e. V.  
– German National Academy of Sciences –  
Jägerberg 1 | 06108 Halle (Saale)

**Registration**
The event is open to everyone interested in the subject. Registration is necessary but there is no attendance fee.  
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/physiology-pathophysiology-2023-symposium-tickets-444527382367

**Contact**
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**Leopoldina Symposium**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 7 March</td>
<td>10:00 – 19:00</td>
<td>German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina</td>
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</table>
| Wednesday, 8 March | 9:15 – 17:00  | Jägerberg 1  
|                  |                 | 06108 Halle (Saale), Germany                   |
How alcohol poisons the cells of the pancreas

Alcohol is easily absorbed and penetrates almost instantly into all cells. The effects of alcohol on human behaviour are quickly apparent, but are still too complex to be properly understood. However, we do now understand the mechanism by which alcohol poisons pancreatic cells and, in particular, how it affects the mitochondria, the cellular powerhouses. The structure of this organelle was described 70 years ago by Leopoldina Member and Nobel Laureate George Palade, who also elucidated the structure of many other organelle types. We can now observe vital processes in individual organelles directly, and in real time, in the living pancreatic tissue and thereby determine how alcohol, often in combination with fatty acids, influences key cell functions. These insights have implications for the treatment of pancreatic diseases and, surprisingly, possibly also for Covid-19.

Ole Petersen is one of the most respected scientists in the field of pancreas research and has published more than 400 scientific papers on the function of the pancreas. Since 2010, Ole Petersen has succeeded Nobel Laureate Sir Martin Evans as Director of the Cardiff School of Biosciences at Cardiff University in Wales. He is a member of various European science academies, such as the Leopoldina and the Royal Society, and has received many awards for his research including, most recently, the 2022 Palade Prize. He is also editor-in-chief of the American Physiological Society’s open access journal Function, which has been published since 2020.