

Stockholm, 2024-04-29

The Cilla Weigelt Award

The Cilla Weigelt Award aims to encourage and support PhD students investigating molecular mechanisms of relevance for rare and undertreated diseases. This annual award is through a nomination procedure, and in 2024 the selected awardee will receive a personal prize of 20 000 SEK and a research grant of 30 000 SEK to support scientific exchange (e.g. participation in scientific conferences, sabbaticals, travel to establish scientific collaborations). The candidate recipient must carry out PhD studies at a Swedish university at the nomination closure date, to be eligible.

The main supervisors of eligible candidates are hereby invited to make nominations no later than Sunday 16 June 2024. Only one nomination can be made per supervisor. Priority will be given to students who have more than one year left of their studies before graduation.

The nomination letter should not exceed two pages, providing a brief background on the disease(s) studied, a summary of the main achievements by the PhD student and what potential these scientific results bring to further our understanding of initiation and progression of the disease, including significance for potential future treatments (if relevant). In addition to the nomination letter, the CV of the candidate should also be provided.

About Cilla Weigelt

Cecilia “Cilla” Weigelt (born Gidlöf) defended her doctoral thesis in clinical immunology at Uppsala University in 1998. In 2000 she joined the Danish-Swedish biotech firm HemeBiotech as Manager Cell Biology. She remained with the company (later renamed to Zymenex, which subsequently was acquired by Chiesi Pharma) for her entire career. During this time, she made significant contributions to several drug discovery and development projects aimed at the treatment of rare diseases. Cilla always supported younger scientists and was highly motivated to help patients lacking adequate treatment for devastating diseases. Cilla passed away in 2021 at the age of 51 after having lived 10 years with breast cancer.

The Cilla Weigelt award has been instigated by her employer Chiesi Global Rare Disease (GRD), the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC), friends and family in her spirit to support and inspire young students and to honour her memory. The award is administered by the Foundation Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM) at Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital.

Nominations for the 2024 award

Please send your nominations according to the specifications provided above to: cweigeltaward@cmm.se no later than 16 June 2024. The awardee will be announced in the first week of October 2024, and a prize ceremony will be held at the Chiesi Global Rare Diseases R&D office in Stockholm (Campus Solna) shortly thereafter.

Additional contributions to the prize were made by: Aled Edwards (Toronto, Canada), Johan Weigelt (Stockholm) and MRCS AB (Michael Sundström, Stockholm).