

Meet Martin Reincke, our 2026 Geoffrey Harris Awardee



Professor Martin Reincke, from Munich, Germany, is our 2026 Geoffrey Harris Awardee. He will deliver his Award Lecture in Prague at ECE 2026. Read on to learn more about his career in endocrinology, his advice for future endocrinologists, and what you can look forward to hearing him talk about at the Congress.

Please tell us about your current role

I have been a Professor of Endocrinology at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Hospital in Munich, Germany, since 2004. In October 2025, I stepped down from my role as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, and now I very happily work part-time as a Senior Professor at the University – an arrangement that allows more time for science, mentoring and reflection.

How were you inspired to work in endocrinology?

Endocrinology is endlessly fascinating: it addresses the mechanisms governing sex and reproduction, fetal development, birth, growth, puberty, ageing, body-weight regulation, chronobiology and much more, within a single discipline.

That said, my career choice was not the result of a carefully designed masterplan. It was pure chance. On the third day of my professional life as a junior intern, I literally ran into one of the most brilliant and enthusiastic endocrinologists I have ever known: the late Bruno Allolio (1949–2015). He became my mentor and lifelong friend. He was truly a ‘fisher of men’. I was not the only one he inspired – others followed, including Wiebke Arlt, Felix Beuschlein, Martin Fassnacht and many more.

What will you discuss in your Award Lecture at ECE 2026?

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for this remarkable recognition. I feel deeply humbled to receive the 2026 Geoffrey Harris Award, particularly in the highly competitive field of neuroendocrinology and in light of the outstanding scientists who have received this honour before me. Truly, we are standing on the shoulders of giants.

My Award Lecture will focus on Cushing's syndrome, a disease that has been close to my heart for many years. Endogenous Cushing's syndrome is rare – only affecting between two and eight new patients per million per year – but its clinical impact is profound. Caused by small neuroendocrine tumours of the pituitary, lung or adrenal glands, it is a devastating disease, associated with prolonged suffering and significant morbidity.

I have been fortunate to contribute to several recent publications that have advanced our understanding of its pathophysiology, clinical presentation, treatment strategies and the long-term consequences of hypercortisolism. In Prague, I will highlight the complexity of Cushing's syndrome and advocate for integrated, patient-centred care approaches aimed at improving long-term outcomes and quality of life.

What are you most proud of in your career, and in life in general?

In a literal sense, pride belongs to the well-known list of the seven deadly sins. I therefore prefer to speak of privilege. I feel immensely privileged to work as a professor, physician and researcher – experiencing the rare freedom to pursue purpose, passion and impact all at once.

What is likely to be the next breakthrough in your area of interest?

I believe that molecular imaging of corticotroph pituitary adenomas will fundamentally change how we diagnose Cushing's disease, and will significantly improve surgical precision and outcomes.

What are the biggest challenges in your field right now?

From a patient's perspective: finding an endocrinologist truly experienced in managing Cushing's syndrome.

From a junior endocrinologist's perspective: finding a genuine mentor – someone who prioritises the mentee's success above their own.

From a societal perspective: defending academic freedom and fundamental research. We are learning that these freedoms are no longer guaranteed everywhere. As Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, 'Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.'

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

Do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life.

What are you most looking forward to at ECE 2026?

Meeting friends and colleagues from around the world always feels like a family reunion. And Prague – one of the most beautiful cities in the world – offers magnificent architecture, outstanding food, rich culture and excellent science. What more could one ask for?

Why should people join ESE?

There are a thousand and one good reasons. In short: outstanding science, exceptional meetings, excellent education and remarkable value. But, most importantly, the leadership and staff of ESE genuinely care about their members.

What words of wisdom do you have for aspiring endocrinologists?

To quote Oscar Wilde, 'We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.' So let us look at the stars, because *fortuna fortis adiuvat*: fortune favours the brave.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

My final words are dedicated to the many wonderful colleagues and close friends I have met through ESE, with whom it has been a privilege to collaborate. I am also deeply grateful to my colleagues – young and old – in our endocrinology department. Without your support over all these years, I would never have been considered for the Geoffrey Harris Award.