

Media release; Basel, 20 November 2020

## Renowned global award for early-career scientists goes to Dasha Nelidova at IOB

*Dasha Nelidova has won a major global award, the Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists. The prize recognizes excellence amongst young researchers from around the world and was awarded for high-impact research in Molecular Medicine. She developed an optogenetic technology for engineering near-infrared vision which could aid patients with incomplete blindness. Nelidova is a PostDoc at the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (IOB) and performed her doctoral work in the laboratory of Botond Roska.*

The Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists is awarded annually by *Science* magazine and SciLifeLab, a partnership of four Swedish Universities.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award", says Dasha Nelidova. "The prize will help us further accelerate the development of novel therapeutic approaches for restoring vision in blind patients."

This is Nelidova's fourth accolade this year, having already won the Swiss OphthAward for the best experimental work, the PRO RETINA Germany & Retina Suisse basic research award, and an Ophthalmology Star Award.

*Science* magazine publishes an essay about the prize-winning work (click here to access). The award also includes a week's trip to Sweden featuring the prize ceremony and celebration, scientific talks and networking seminars. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 trip will take place at some stage next year.

**Dasha Nelidova** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (IOB), where she is working to develop new translational technologies for treating retinal diseases that lead to blindness. She completed her PhD in neurobiology at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, working in the research group of Botond Roska, now IOB Co-Director.

At the **Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (IOB)**, basic researchers and clinicians work hand in hand to advance the understanding of vision and develop new therapies for vision loss. Constituted as a foundation in December 2017, its founding partners are the University Hospital Basel, the University of Basel and Novartis. The Canton of Basel-Stadt has granted the institute substantial financial support.

The **Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists** is a global prize awarded to early-career scientists. It was established in 2013 for the best life science PhD thesis work completed in the past two years. It aims "to encourage our best and brightest to continue in their chosen fields of research. It is important to provide extra encouragement to young scientists as they begin their scientific careers", states *Science* magazine on its prize website. The entry categories for the four 2020 prizes were Molecular Medicine, Cell and Molecular Biology, Ecology and Environment, Genomics, Proteomics and Systems Biology.

A print quality portrait photo of Dasha Nelidova, the IOB logo, etc. are available from

**IOB media contact:** Sabine.Rosta@iob.ch; +41 76 336 77 74  
www.iob.ch; Twitter @IOB\_ch; YouTube IOB Basel Switzerland