Rolf Luft Symposium 2025

Rolf Luft Award 2025

10 September 2025

Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institutet

Karolinska Institutet

Rolf Luft
Foundation for Diabetes Research

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ROLF LUFT Award and Symposium, September 10, 2025

Time :13-18

Venue: Nobel Forum, KI

Recipient of the Rolf Luft Award 2025

Professor Ronald M Evans, The Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA, receives the ROLF LUFT AWARD 2025 *for the discovery and the functional characterization of the superfamily of nuclear hormone receptors, ligand activated transcription factors that play a key role in physiology and metabolic disease*

Motivation for the Rolf Luft Award 2025

Ronald Evans Scientific Contributions to Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism

Dr. Ronald M. Evans is a renowned molecular geneticist known for groundbreaking work on nuclear hormone receptors that revolutionized our understanding of molecular mechanisms governing gene regulation and metabolic processes. His 1985 discovery of human glucocorticoid receptor (GR), its complete sequence, molecular blueprint and function, played a pivotal role in unraveling the complex interactions between hormones and genes, opening new avenues of research and shedding light on how hormones control various physiological processes, including metabolism, development, and immune responses.

In 1988 Evans proposed the existence of a Steroid-Thyroid Receptor Superfamily. This was a paradigm shift launching a new era of endocrinology, and ultimately revealing more than 42 previously unknown ‘orphan receptors’ including receptors for Vitamins A and D, thyroid hormone (co-published with Björn Vennström), prostaglandins, bile acids, xenobiotics and more. This led to many new treatments in cancer, metabolism and diabetes. In 2020, Evans' lab uncovered a role for ERR-gamma, a key factor for making transplantable human beta cells, bringing us closer to potential cures for Type 1 diabetes. From this body of work, it’s clear Evans has dedicated his career to harnessing nuclear hormone receptors to increase the effectiveness of many disease therapies.

PROGRAM

Rolf Luft Award Ceremony

13:00 Introduction**, Chair** *Kerstin Brismar, senior professor, KI*

13:05 **Rolf Luft Award Ceremony**
Vice President Professor Martin Bergö, Karolinska Institutet TBD
Recipient of Rolf Luft Award: Professor Ronald M Evans, the Salk institute, USA

13:10 **The Prize lecture**: *Professor Ronald M Evans, the Salk institute, USA*,
Nuclear Receptors at the Crossroads of Metabolism, Physiology, and Disease

14:10 *Short interval*

14:15 **Rolf Luft Symposium**
Chair Daniel Andersson, associate professor, KI

14:20 **Identification of two types of steatotic liver disease with different clinical trajectories**
Stefano Romeo, Professor, överläkare, ME endokrinologi. Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset

14:55 **En blick in i Novo Nordisk forskning och utveckling**
TBD

15.10 *Coffe/tea interval*

15:30 **HND – med patienten i centrum**
Jonas Spaak, Adjungerad professor, överläkare. Danderyds sjukhus, Hjärtkliniken
Henrik Wagner, PhD, Överläkare. KS Huddinge, ME Endokrinologin

15:50 **Screening av pre-diabetes och typ 2-diabetes inom tandvården – en outnyttjad möjlighet i det preventiva arbetet**
Anna Ugarph, Morawski, PhD, Specialist allmänmedicin, Liljeholmens Universitetsvårdcentral, Stockholm

16:05 **Estimated glucose disposal rate och risk för hjärtinfarkt vid diabetes**
Linn Glynn, Doktorand, ST-läkare Internmedicin. Södersjukhuset

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16:20 **Träning vid typ 1 – en kamp mot klockan?**
Ingrid Dahlman, Adjungerad Professor, Överläkare, SöS, Endokrinsektionen
Eva Toft, Docent, Överläkare. Ersta sjukhus Medicinkliniken

16:35 **Bensträckare**

..16:40 **Fertilitet och PCOS vid Typ 1-Diabetes**
Sofia Toft, doktorand, ST-läkare i obstetrik och gynekologi KS, Inst MMK

16:55 **Obesitas, viktstigma och bemötande**
Anne Christenson, PhD, Fysioterapeut, Kognitiv beteendeterapeut

17:15 **Reflektion och avslut**

17:25 – **Lättare förtäring**

Rolf Luft

Father of Endocrinology in Sweden

He was born in 1914 in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1944, he obtained his PhD from Karolinska Institute for his thesis entitled: “A study on Hirsutism, Cushing´s Syndrome and Precocious Puberty”.
A grant from the Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation in 1946 gave him the opportunity to visit Massachusetts General Hospital in the USA for one year, working with Fuller Albright.
As a professor and head of the Department of Endocrinology at Karolinska Hospital, he has supervised a legion of scholars in diabetes.

He discovered in 1958 a disturbed function of mitochondria as a cause of disease (referred to as Luft disease) that led to the development of Mitochondrial Medicine for which the word identifies him as the Father of Mitochondrial Medicine. In the early descriptions of mitochondrial diseases, diabetes mellitus was thought to be related.
In 1988, mutations in the mitochondria were associated with diabetes mellitus that led to the discovery of mitochondrial diabetes.
He received innumerable awards, a number of honorary doctorates and was made an honorary member of several diabetic associations and scientific academies in different countries. He served as President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) for six years and was a founding member of The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). He was a member of the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute 1961 – 1980 and served as chairman of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine 1976 - 1978.
Rolf Luft published the first national program for diabetes care 1967. Rolf Luft died in 2007.