**Biography:** Prof. Dr. Dan Rujescu, Univ. of Halle, ISPG Board of Directors

Prof. Dr. Dan Rujescu, is Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics of the University of Halle, Germany. He received his medical degree from the Universities Heidelberg and Essen. From 1993-1995 he worked as a physician at the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Mainz. Afterwards, he moved to the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Munich where he became Head of the Division of Molecular and Clinical Neurobiology. During his time in Munich he became a senior physician, a medical specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy, a full Professor for Psychiatry, Head of the Alzheimer Memorial Center, as well as Deputy Head of the Department.

He can refer to an extensive list of publications comprising more than 350 original papers. Most of his research is funded through national and especially international third-party funding including eight EU funded projects, three genome-wide genotyping initiatives of the Wellcome Trust (WTCCC), one DFG priority program, one project of the Bavarian Research Foundation, two R01 projects of the National Institutes of Health and one BMBF project within the National Genome Research Network.

Dan Rujescu is member of several national and international scientific societies. Within the World Society of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) he is head of the “Genetics” task force, furthermore, within the Collogium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP) he is councilor and chair of the “Ethics committee”. Additioanlly, Dan Rujescu is head of the “Genetics of Suicide and Neurobiology” task force of the International Association for Suicidal Prevention (IASP) and fellow of the International Academy of Suicide Research (IASR).

Based on his previous research he has been awarded the following prizes: in 2006 the NARSAD Independent Investigator Award (William & Gloria Paul Family Foundation), in 2007 the Kraepelin Research Award, in 2008 the Dr. Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award, in 2008 the Kraepelin-Alzheimer medal, and in 2010 the European BMS Prevention Award in Psychiatry.

Dan Rujescu is mostly involved in the research of genetic factors and biomarkers of psychiatric diseases. The Department is involved in extensive academic and industrial national and international genome and post-genome efforts (e.g. genome wide association studies, next generation sequencing etc.). The major focus of his research is on a multidimensional translational approach to neuropsychiatric diseases and behavioral phenotypes at genetic, molecular, cellular, structural, functional, cognitive and behavioural levels. The group is recruiting and characterizing one of the largest groups of psychiatric patients and controls with intermediate phenotypes.