

Heidelberg, December 16, 2016

3rd Christmas Symposium German Cancer Research Center Heidelberg

Nicola Werner Award

Dear Prof. Bartenschläger,
Dear Prof. Riemer,
Dear Scientists,

We are very honored to be here today and to award for the first time the “Nicola Werner award”. An award that is dedicated to the research in the areas of virology, immunology and prevention of cancerous diseases.

You may ask what is the background of this award and how did we get there?

Nicola was born 1961 in Hamburg and began painting with passion as a schoolgirl.

In 2008 she was diagnosed for the first time with a HPV caused early stage / pre-stage of cancer and treated in Heidelberg for several years.

Nicola was diagnosed in May 2015 with a progressed vaginal cancer already with metastases.

She received Chemotherapy and a targeted therapy at the NCT. Subsequently she participated in a stage one study for immunotherapy at the Institute Gustave Roussy in Paris, followed by palliative care.

However, she was not curable and passed away at her home in Paris surrounded by her family on February 23, 2016.

Last December she expressed the desire to contribute with her art to making sure no other women leave this world prematurely because of HPV cancer.

During her remaining last two months, she was on the mission to bring her vision to life.

She wanted to create an exhibition that shows this purpose and to raise funds through the sale of prints of the paintings to support her cause.

Nicola selected the paintings, commissioned photography's documenting the advancement of her disease. And she used her very last energy two weeks prior to her death to record spread over a day a video. In this video, she shares deep

insights into her artwork, her disease, her view of life and death to provide the words for the exhibition.

Nicola finishes the video session with her call to life: “Live the music, that plays within you.”

The exhibition has been shown here in the DKFZ and is currently on display at the Institute Gustave Roussy.

She loved cycling, nature and in particular the beach in Normandy. So, it was almost obvious to express the spirit of her call to life in this context.

We created the Nicola Werner Challenge to enjoy life, live the moment and to raise funds for her cause. With a group of 40 riders wearing jerseys bearing her logo we participated in September on a cycling marathon to Normandy.

Next year’s marathon will be on September 09 and we look forward to assemble again a strong team.

Today we can award you dear Ms. Alina Steinbach with the first “Nicola Werner Award”.

This award is for your research whether attending a conference, buying books. Or in case you need to elevate the motivation in your family taking them out for a nice dinner.

The goal was—and is—to honor Nicola’s last wishes: to spread the word, to educate, to help research, and more generally, to celebrate life.

Thanks

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