

## **Giovanni Galizia assigned as new Director of the Zukunftskolleg at the University of Konstanz**

**Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia holds the Chair of Zoology and Neurobiology at the University of Konstanz. As from 1 October 2009 he took up a further office as the Director of the Zukunftskolleg. He replaces Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gerhart von Graevenitz, who was the founding director of the Zukunftskolleg and the former rector of the University of Konstanz.**

The Zukunftskolleg is a keystone in the University of Konstanz's institutional strategy to promote top-level research, funded by the German federal and state governments' Excellence Initiative. It offers up-and-coming scientists in the natural sciences, the humanities and the social sciences a creative space to pursue outstanding research. A total of some 35 distinguished young scholars gather here as fellows – independent and autonomous.

“I am happy and honoured to be able to continue the creative shaping of the Zukunftskolleg”, says Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia. To meet this challenge, the biologist is not only able to build on his numerous awards and publications, but also on his experience in the field of interdisciplinary discourse and in the promotion of young scientists: as an active participant and contributor to the Young Academy, through interdisciplinary projects at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, as an expert reviewer on the selection panel for Lichtenberg Professorships and also as a Member of the Royal Academy of Norway. In 2005, he was also chosen as the "Mentor of the Year" at the University of California. As Head of the Department of Biology at the University of Konstanz, he also holds experience in various fields of committee work, including, for example, as a DFG Liaison Officer at the University of Konstanz, as a member of various scientific advisory boards as well as in numerous representative and coordinating roles since his years of study.

Giovanni Galizia's core research area focuses on odor processing and olfactory memory in the brain, with particular emphasis on insects such as bees and fruit flies. Galizia's research is aimed at understanding physiological properties of olfactory sensory neurons, at neural networks in insect brains, and at the mechanisms of learning and memory in these networks. Giovanni Galizia studied Biology in Berlin and did his doctorate in Zoology in Britain. Prior to being offered a professorship at the University of Konstanz in 2005, he worked as an Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of California, previous to which he headed a research group at the FU Berlin.

The outgoing Director Professor Gerhart von Graevenitz comments on his successor: “With Professor Galizia a leader is assigned to the Zukunftskolleg who dedicated himself to the promotion of young scientists extending over many years. Building on his scientific reputation and his numerous contacts in the international scientific community he brings an excellent qualification to ensure the future success of the Zukunftskolleg as the flagship in young and creative first class research”.

Konstanz, 1 October 2009  
Dr. Ursula Herold-Schmidt, Zukunftskolleg