

Whistleblower-Award 2005
Program of the Award Presentation to

Dr. Theodore A. Postol
Dr. Arpad Pusztai

Saturday 15 October 2005, 8 pm
Urania Berlin, An der Urania 17, 10787 Berlin

- 8 pm **Opening:** *Spielman und Federman, Klezmer*
- 8.10 pm **Welcoming Address:** *Annegret Falter, Federation of German Scientists, VDW*
- 8.20 pm **Theodore A. Postol's Criticism of the American Missile Defense Program:**
Dr. Götz Neuneck, IFSH Hamburg
- 8.35 pm **Arpad Pusztai's Research on Genetically Modified Potatoes -
and its Consequences:**
Dr. Beatrix Tappeser, BfN, Bonn
- 8.50 pm **Presentation Speech:** *Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel, Ombudsman of DFG*
- 9.10 pm **Presentation of the Whistleblower-Award 2005 to
Theodore A. Postol and Arpad Pusztai:** *Otto Jäckel, Lawyer, IALANA*
- Acceptance Speech of the Laureates:** *Theodore A. Postol, Arpad Pusztai*
- 9.45 pm **Finale Music and Reception**

Saturday, 15 October 2005, 8pm

Presentation of the Whistleblower-Award 2005

Prof. Theodore A. Postol, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA
Dr. Arpad Pusztai, Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology (GenOk), Tromso, Norway

The physicist **Ted Postol** of the renowned MIT has been criticizing for years the *American National Missile Defense (NMD)* program and has in this context accused the *Lincoln Laboratory at MIT* of scientific fraud and the MIT itself of covering up the whole affair. Postol voiced his criticism and his warnings both among experts and to the media. By doing this, he has aroused serious doubts among his colleagues as well as in the broad public about the sense and the function of the US-American missile defense plans and the military-technical conception of security which forms the basis of these plans. With his criticism of the covering-up-strategy of the MIT-management he has moreover focused public attention on the problem of (military) secret research at universities.

Götz Neuneck (IFSH, Hamburg) explains why the 'case' Postol is of such 'explosiveness' as regards armament politics.

In the 1990s, the biologist **Arpad Pusztai** led a major project at the *Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen*, which was financed by the government. Being one of the leading experts in the field of lectines with 35 years of professional experience and 270 international publications on his list, he discovered while doing feeding experiments that rats, when fed genetically modified potatoes, developed damages to their immune system as well as disturbances of growth of various of their organs. Being concerned that genetically modified food might become authorized, he made these completely unexpected observations public on the basis of preliminary results. This led to his instant dismissal. Although Dr. Pusztai later published his research results in the renowned scientific journal 'The Lancet', the experiments have so far not been repeated.

Since his dismissal, Arpad Pusztai has been working internationally for the testing of genetically modified organisms (GMO) with appropriate scientific methods to ensure their safeness. He has contributed considerably to the fact that the research into risk and safeness of GMO is being increasingly questioned and critically scrutinized by the public as well as by representatives of science and politics (see also the judgment of the OVG NRW of 20 June 2005 on the public's right to information about risk research of private enterprises is concerned).

The conflict which was evoked by the research of Arpad Pusztai will be presented by **Beatrix Tappeser** (Federal Nature Conservation Agency, Bonn).

Ulrike Beisiegel (University of Hamburg), speaker of the ombudsman board of the German Research Community (DFG) for questions of 'good scientific practice' will in her presentation speech give a summary of the shared aspects of both cases and their consequences for the handling of dissent in science and society.

The prize was donated by the Federation of German Scientists (Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler, VDW) and the German Section of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA).