



**Welcome to the first edition of ALUMNI MONTHLY!**

*This E-mail Newsletter aims to bring you closer to what is happening at the DKFZ. It includes DKFZ press releases, job offers and new publications as well as introductions to our new divisions and junior groups and DKFZ presence at conferences (AACR, Naturejobs etc.). It also informs you of upcoming Alumni Association events.*

*Alumni Monthly is available to all current and former DKFZ colleagues. If you wish to receive this E-mail Newsletter regularly and are not yet a member of the Alumni Association, please sign up at [www.dkfz.de/alumni](http://www.dkfz.de/alumni)*

*We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and we're looking forward to hearing your suggestions for future issues.*

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**Michael Baumann, a Dresden cancer specialist, will be the new scientific director of the German Cancer Research Center**



Prof. Michael Baumann © Philip Benjamin/NCT Dresden

The board of trustees at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg has unanimously elected Prof. Michael Baumann as chairman and scientific director of the German Cancer Research Center, as of November 1, 2016. [read more](#)

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## Lasker Award for Ralf Bartenschlager

Ralf Bartenschlager, Virologist and cancer researcher at the Heidelberg University Hospital and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) has received the Lasker-DeBaakey Medical Research Award endowed with 250 000 Dollar. [read more](#)



Ralf Bartenschlager © dkfz / Tobias Schwerdt

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## German Immunology Award for Hans-Reimer Rodewald



Hans-Reimer Rodewald © Jutta Jung/DKFZ

For his groundbreaking research, Hans-Reimer Rodewald from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg has been honored by the German Society for Immunology (DGfI) with the 2016 German Immunology Award. [read more](#)

[More press releases:](#)

- Making efficient use of Big Data in medicine
- Diet myths and cancer
- Liquid Biopsy: Level of mutated DNA in the blood corresponds to patient outcome
- Medication against schizophrenia inhibits pancreatic cancer
- DKTK Dresden: CRISPR/Cas9 technology to diagnose cancer mutations

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## Highlight Publications

### Recurrent MET fusion genes represent a drug target in pediatric glioblastoma

Glioblastoma, an extremely aggressive type of brain cancer, is still mostly untreatable in children. Scientists from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg University Hospital and an international consortium including the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics (MPIMG) undertook a comprehensive analysis of glioblastoma genomes. In about ten percent of the cases, they found a previously unknown mutation that is treatable with a targeted drug that has already been approved. In experiments with mice, the investigators successfully used this agent to halt the growth of brain tumors with this mutation.

Bender, S. et al., International Cancer Genome Consortium PedBrain Tumor Project. Recurrent MET fusion genes represent a drug target in pediatric glioblastoma. Nat. Med. Oct. 17 (2016). Doi: 10.1038/nm4204 [link to article](#)

**Mutation analysis of circulating plasma DNA to determine response to EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy of lung adenocarcinoma patients.**

New findings from a scientific collaboration between the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg and the Thoraxklinik Heidelberg suggest liquid biopsy as a promising tool to monitor lung cancer patient tumors early. Scientists associated liquid biopsy readouts with clinical data and were able to track tumor responses to cancer drugs in real-time. Their paper has just been published in the latest issue of Scientific Reports.

Riediger AL, Dietz S, Schirmer U, et al. Mutation analysis of circulating plasma DNA to determine response to EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy of lung adenocarcinoma patients. Scientific Reports. 2016;6:33505. doi:10.1038/srep33505. [link to article](#)

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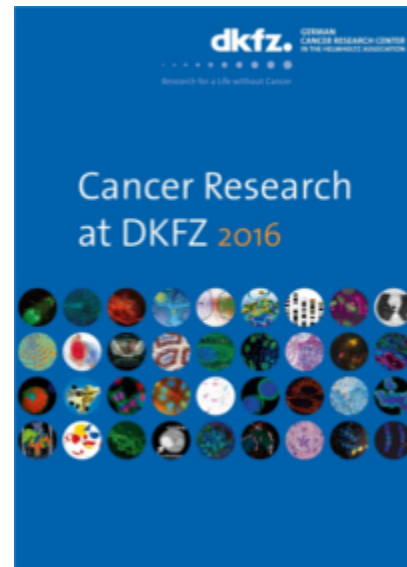
## New Publication: Cancer Research at DKFZ

### A Compendium of Cutting-Edge Research

The recently published compendium “Cancer Research at DKFZ 2016” gives a comprehensive overview of current developments in research and associated activities like core services, education and career management. On 168 pages, the publication presents the divisions, junior groups and clinical cooperation units of the seven research programs. The brochure also highlights DKTK Professorships and DKTK Young Investigator Groups.

The DKFZ also takes pride to present its two Nobel laureates and shows how topics like technology transfer and cancer information to the public add to the strength of the research institution. You are very welcome to find out what is new at the Center.

[download publication](#)



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A printed version is free of charge. Order your copy at [a.retzmann@dkfz.de](mailto:a.retzmann@dkfz.de)

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## Junior Research Group Molecular Leukemogenesis Dr. Stefan Gröschel



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The scientific objectives are to understand pathways of gene regulation and to develop insights with innovative technologies to control gene expression in cancers driven by EVI1, most prominently acute myeloid leukemia. The aim is to translate these ideas as cancer therapeutic strategies.

By applying functional genome diagnostics (next-generation sequencing-based, e.g. ChIP, targeted locus proteomics, 4C chromatin analysis) and genome editing (CRISPR technology) we aim to explore ways to reprogram the cancer cell's

fundamental identity and revert the aggressive phenotype of these EVI1+ cancers. Toward these goals, we are also part of the ENHANCE consortium of the DKFZ, a highly interactive joint research collaboration of investigators from the DKFZ involved in basic and translational research with a focus on epigenetics. [read more](#)

## Helmholtz University Junior Research Group T Cell Metabolism Dr. Guoliang Cui

Immune cells, such as T cells, play a very important role in protection against cancer development. However, tumor-infiltrating T cells are frequently immunosuppressed or "exhausted", which is characterized by expression of immune checkpoint molecules (such as PD-1, TIGIT, LAG-3, etc) and reduction of anti-tumor effector cytokines (such as IFN $\gamma$ , TNF $\alpha$ , etc). Immune checkpoint blockade has achieved huge clinical success in several types of cancers, but only a subset population of cancer patients benefit from it. This suggests that we may be still at the early stage in understanding the immunosuppressive nature of tumor microenvironment. Thus, one of the most important questions in this field is to identify the factors causing T cell exhaustion in the tumor. [read more](#)



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## Conference: Labeling & Nanoscopy 2016

Heidelberg 30 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2016  
**Labeling & Nanoscopy 2016**

**Keynote Speakers**  
Jason Chin, IBC, Cambridge, GB  
Karl Deisseroth, Stanford, USA  
Peter Hegemann, Berlin, GER

**Certified Speakers**  
Jan Ehrlich, IBC, Heidelberg, GER  
Jan Kiefer, Lipinski/Schwartz, San Francisco, USA  
Dirk Trau, Munich, GER  
Markus Weiskopf, Götting, GER  
Virginia Corbin, Columbus, USA  
Sabine Moritz, Götting, GER

**Invited Speakers**  
David Edelstein, Harvard, USA  
Masahito Miyawaki, Kyoto, JPN  
Robert Campbell, U. Illinois, USA  
Kai Ingham, Bamberg, GER  
Heiko Lichtenfeld, Bamberg, GER  
Philip Frankel, Brandeis, USA  
Markus Sauer, Götting, GER  
John Briggs, IBC, Heidelberg, GER

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30 October - 1 November, 2016

This conference brings together experts in fluorescence and labeling with those designing and applying new concepts of far-field optical nanoscopy. It is a sequel to the very successful first event held in 2014.

[read more](#)

## International symposium "Bioinformatics for Human Health and Disease"

**INTERNATIONAL de.NBI-SYMPOSIUM**

# **BIOINFORMATICS FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASE**

**NOVEMBER 7-9, 2016**



**November 7-9, 2016**

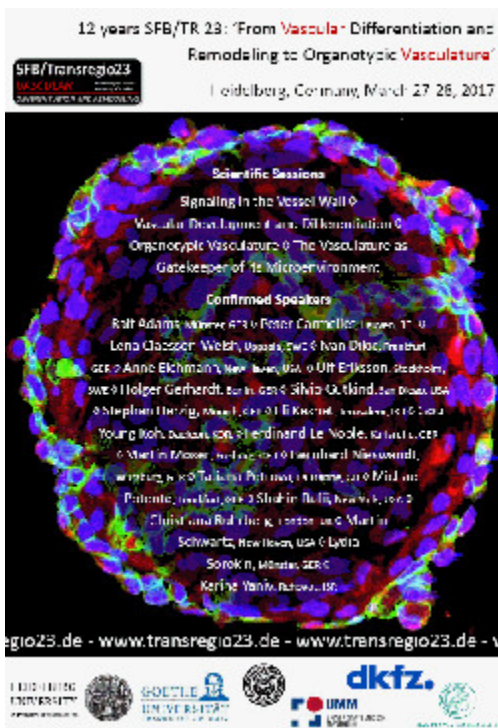
This international symposium is launching a series of annual international conferences on bioinformatics by the German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure (de.NBI) and covers a diversity of topics concerned with human bioinformatics in disease related contexts, such as

- Clinical genomics
- Human microbiomes in health and disease
- Integrative omics analyses
- Systems biology
- Epigenetics
- Functional annotation and understanding of normal and cancer genome variants
- Bioimage informatics of cellular and tissue model systems
- Bioinformatics as a service in biomedical research
- Collaborative development and interoperability

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## **Conference: 12 years SFB-TR23: From Vascular Differentiation and Remodeling to Organotypic Vasculature**



**12 years SFB/TR 23: 'From Vascular Differentiation and Remodeling to Organotypic Vasculature'**  
 Heidelberg, Germany, March 27-28, 2017

**Scientific Sessions**  
 Signaling in the Vessel Wall  
 Vascular Development and Differentiation  
 Organotypic Vasculature: The Vasculature as Gatekeeper of its Microenvironment

**Confirmed Speakers**  
 Ralf Adams, Münster, GER  
 Lena Claesson-Welsh, Uppsala, SWE  
 Anne Eichmann, New Haven, USA  
 Ulf Eriksson, Stockholm, SWE  
 Holger Gerhardt, Berlin, GER  
 Silvio Gutkind, San Diego, USA  
 Stephan Herzig, Munich, GER  
 Eli Keshet, Jerusalem, ISR  
 Gou Young Koh, Daejeon, KOR  
 Ferdinand Le Noble, Karlsruhe, GER  
 Martin Moser, Freiburg, GER  
 Bernhard Nieswandt, Würzburg, GER  
 Tatiana Petrova, Lausanne, CH  
 Michael Potente, Frankfurt, GER

Sponsors: SFB/TR23, de.NBI, DKTZ, etc.

**March 27-28, 2017**

### **Confirmed Speakers**

- Ralf Adams, Münster, GER
- Peter Carmeliet, Leuven, BEL
- Lena Claesson-Welsh, Uppsala, SWE
- Ivan Dikic, Frankfurt GER
- Anne Eichmann, New Haven, USA
- Ulf Eriksson, Stockholm, SWE
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- Bernhard Nieswandt, Würzburg, GER
- Tatiana Petrova, Lausanne, CH
- Michael Potente, Frankfurt, GER

- Shahin Rafii, New York, USA
- Christiana Ruhrberg, London, UK
- Martin Schwartz, New Haven, USA

Lydia Sorokin, Münster, GER

Karina Yaniv, Rehovot, ISR

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## Future Conferences

11 - 13 May 2017 2nd European Cancer Epigenetics Conference

8 June 2017 Nobel Lecture Françoise Barré-Sinoussi

3 - 4 July 2017 Symposium Personalized Medicine (ISR-GER)

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## Job Openings at DKFZ

### Scientific jobs

- 258/2016 Full professorship (W3) in "Molecular mechanisms of antibody diversification"
- 255/2016 Junior professorship (W1) with tenure track option "Translational Pediatric Glioma Research"
- 232/2016 NCT HSO Translational Cancer Research Fellowships - NCT - Heidelberg School of Oncology
- 230/2016 Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in in Vollzeit (Postdoc) - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Heidelberg
- 203/2016 Informatiker/in / Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in - Medizinische Informatik in der Translationalen Onkologie
- 178/2016 Postdoc - High-throughput CRISPR Screening - Signaling and Functional Genomics
- 177/2016 Postdoc - Genetic Interaction Mapping - Signaling and Functional Genomics
- 176/2016 Postdoc - Computational Biology - Signaling and Functional Genomics
- 153/2016 Staff Scientist / Bioinformatician - Signaling and Functional Genomics
- 152/2016 Computational Biologist - Functional Annotation of Cancer Variants by Integrative Analysis of High-throughput CRISPR Assays - Signaling and Functional Genomics

### PhD studentships / Diploma theses

- 264/2016 PhD Student in Life Science - Regulation of Endocytosis by Glycolipids - Lipid-Pathobiochemistry Group within Department of Molecular and Cellular Pathology
- 254/2016 Doktorand/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Dresden
- 238/2016 PhD Student - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Essen/ Düsseldorf

### Administration

- 260/2016 2 Wissenschaftliche Referenten/Referentinnen mit Universitätsabschluss der Fachrichtung Medizin bzw. Naturwissenschaften - Wissenschaftlicher Stiftungsvorstand
- 259/2016 2 Referenten/Referentinnen des Kaufmännischen Vorstands - Kaufmännischer Vorstandsbereich

- 227/2016 Technologiemanager/in - Stabsstelle Technologietransfer

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## Alumni Events

### Alumni Club Heidelberg

12 December 2016, 17.30, KI/II DKFZ Communication Center

**Demenz: Fortschritte in der Erkennung und Beeinflussung** (in German)

[link to program](#)

All DKFZ Colleagues and Alumni are welcome! Please register with [susanne.schunk@dkfz.de](mailto:susanne.schunk@dkfz.de)

### Alumni event for new DKFZ colleagues

6 December 2016, 17.00, Tour of the University Library and Dinner

Every year, the Alumni Association invites DKFZ newcomers to get together for a social event followed by a dinner at an historic restaurant in Heidelberg.

DKFZ newcomers will receive a personal invitation.

### DKFZ Career Day

2 December 2016

**Topic: Project Management**

Preliminary programme [www.dkfz.de/careerday](http://www.dkfz.de/careerday) and [www.dkfz-connect.de](http://www.dkfz-connect.de)

### Alumni New Years Reception 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

The Alumni New Years Reception will be held on 16 February 2017

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## Stay connected

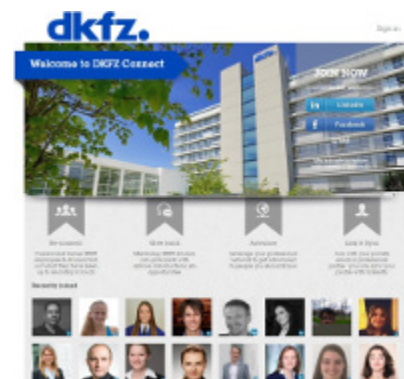
Join us at **DKFZ Connect**, the online platform for networking and mentoring between former and current employees [www.dkfz-connect.de](http://www.dkfz-connect.de)

### Join the Alumni Association

**Alumni members benefit from an attractive range of activities:**

- Publication of *Alumni Monthly* reporting on recent developments at the DKFZ
- Publication of *Alumni Magazine* reporting on Alumni activities
- Eligibility for a DKFZ Alumni email address [your.name@alumni.dkfz.de](mailto:your.name@alumni.dkfz.de)

Current and former DKFZ colleagues are welcome to join. Please register at [www.dkfz.de/en/alumni](http://www.dkfz.de/en/alumni)



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**Last but not least, we would like to know how you like this newsletter**

We would be very happy to receive your comments and suggestion for improvement.

Please send a mail to [susanne.schunk@dkfz.de](mailto:susanne.schunk@dkfz.de)

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**dkfz.**

GERMAN  
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER  
IN THE HEINRICH-BUFFARD ASSOCIATION

50 Years – Research for  
A Life Without Cancer