



Welcome to the March edition of Alumni Monthly

Spring has finally arrived in Heidelberg and we send sunny greetings!

This issue presents to you exceptional researchers as well as highlight publications from the DKFZ. There is information on conferences and lectures coming up and an invitation to all colleagues and friends that will be attending the AACR Meeting in Washington.

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

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News from the Press Office

Taiwan's highest scientific award goes to Hannah Monyer



Hannah Monyer © dkfz.de

The Taiwanese science council has awarded Hannah Monyer of the German Cancer Research Center and Heidelberg University Hospital the Tsungming Tu prize for her groundbreaking work on memory. The prize is the highest academic honor in Taiwan for foreign scientists and carries with it an endowment of \$75,000. [read more](#)

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Skin from the Petri dish helps cancer research

Petra Boukamp receives the German Cancer Award



Petra Boukamp © Jutta Jung/DKFZ

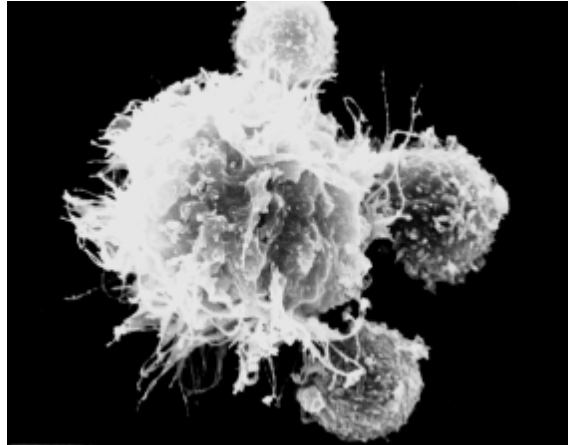
How does skin cancer develop? This is the central question around which Petra Boukamp's research revolves. Boukamp, who led a research department at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) for many years, studied the role of genetic alterations in the development of skin cancer. In addition, she developed organ models that closely resemble human skin and enable researchers to track the development of skin

cancer in culture. For this research, the scientist has now been honored with the experimental part of the German Cancer Award (Deutscher Krebspreis). [read more](#)

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Personalized cancer immunotherapy

The new Helmholtz Institute HI-TRON is a collaboration of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg and the Research Institute for Translational Oncology (TRON) at the University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. The goal of the partnership is to develop effective immunotherapies and to identify novel biomarkers for assessing the effectiveness of treatment. [read more](#)



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DNA labels predict mortality



DNA methylation © Schuster, DKFZ

Methyl labels in the DNA regulate the activity of our genes and, thus, have a great influence on health and disease. Scientists from the German Cancer Research Center and from the Saarland cancer registry have now revealed that an altered methylation status at only ten specific sites in the genome can indicate that mortality is increased by up to seven times. Smoking has a particularly unfavorable impact on the methylation status. [read more](#)

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Multi-talented Jack of all trades, miracle healer or the root of all evil?

On March 17, an unusual subject was on the agenda: Stem cells. More than 1000 high school students in ten German cities visited Institutes and Universities on a quest for stem cells in research and medicine. In Heidelberg, the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), the University Hospital and the University opened their doors for talks and lab visits for the second time. The idea is a European one: More than 27,000 young people set out on UniStem Day in Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Serbia, Denmark and Germany, to find out more about this Jack of all trades in the world of cells. [read more](#)



High school students were given a glimpse of stem cell research on UniStem ... © Philipp Benjamin, DKFZ

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DKTK Freiburg: Physicists simplify production of hypersensitive contrast agent for cancer diagnostics

To make even the smallest tumor clusters and other pathological metabolic processes visible with the help of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI): Physicists from the German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) at the University Hospital of Freiburg have come one step closer to this goal. The scientists used the highly sensitive hyperpolarization MRI, which uses magnetic contrast agents to be several times more sensitive than classic MRIs. The Freiburg researchers managed to radically simplify the production of such contrast agents, which had previously been both very complicated and expensive. This will allow the production of contrast agents that can be used to observe pathological metabolic processes in cancer in real time. The production procedure of these contrast agents has been published in the journal "Nature Communications."

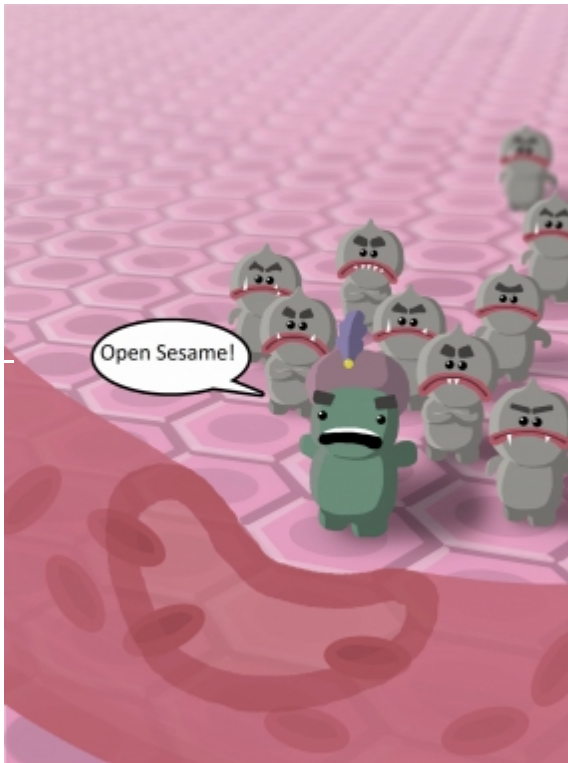
The DKTK is made up of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg as the core location, along with renowned oncology departments of universities in various partner locations across Germany. [read more](#)



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Reprogrammed blood vessels promote cancer spread



© Alberto Puime Otin

Tumor cells use the bloodstream to spread in the body. To reach the blood, they first have to pass the wall of the vessel. Scientists from the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ) and from the Medical Faculty Mannheim of Heidelberg University have now identified a trick that the cancer cells use: They activate a cellular signal in the vessel lining cells. This makes the passage easier for them and promotes metastasis. In experiments with mice, the researchers were able to block this process using antibodies. [read more](#)

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Highlight Publications

Selected by the Research Program Coordinators

Targeting Thioredoxin-1 by dimethyl fumarate induces ripoptosome-mediated cell death.

Sci Rep. 2017 Feb 24;7:43168. doi: 10.1038/srep43168.

Schroeder, A., Warnken, U., Roth, D., Klika, K.D., Vobis, D., Barnert, A., Bujupi, F., Oberacker, T., Schnolzer, M., Nicolay, J.P., et al. [link to article](#)

Deciphering the acute cellular phosphoproteome response to irradiation with X-rays, protons and carbon ions.

Mol Cell Proteomics. 2017 Mar 16. pii: mcp.M116.066597. doi: 10.1074/mcp.M116.066597.

[Epub ahead of print]

Winter M, Dokic I, Schlegel J, Warnken U, Debus J, Abdollahi A, Schnölzer M. [link to article](#)

Kinetics of the Human Papillomavirus Type 16 E6 Antibody Response Prior to Oropharyngeal Cancer

J Natl Cancer Inst (2017) 109 (8): djx005.

Kreimer A, Johansson M, Yanik E L, Katki H K, Check D P, Lang Kuhs K, Willhauck-Fleckenstein M, Holzinger D, Hildesheim A, Pfeiffer R, Williams C, et al. [link to article](#)

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New Research Group

Division of Immune Diversity Prof. Dr. Nina Papavasiliou

Unlike most other cell types in the body, which are static, immune cells must travel through (and adapt to) multiple different environments on a constant basis. This ability to adapt is predicated on molecular mechanisms that generate informational diversity, such that every immune cell is genetically different than every other (which is the case with cells of the adaptive immune system, such as B and T lymphocytes) or transcriptomically different than their siblings (which appears to be the case with innate immune cells, such as cells of the monocytic lineage). Overall, the goal of our research is to understand the molecular processes that generate phenotypic diversity, which in turn is required for adaptation.

This interest originally directed my lab's work to DNA diversification in the context of the adaptive immune response, specifically to mechanisms that direct DNA mutation to antibody genes in the germinal center. This process, which depends on AID-mediated DNA deamination



Prof. Dr. Nina Papavasiliou

followed by error prone repair, generates immunoglobulin sequence diversity and underlies affinity maturation of the antibody response. [read more](#)

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Lectures & Conferences

2nd European Cancer Epigenetics Conference 2017



11 – 13 May 2017

The 2017 meeting will be organized into 5 sessions covering the following fields:

- Mechanisms of Epigenetic Deregulation
- Epigenetics of Single Cells and Molecules
- Epigenetic Programming & Epigenetic Plasticity
- Translational Epigenetics
- Epigenetic Therapy

Keynote Speaker:

Stephen B. Baylin, Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Professor in Cancer Research; Director, Cancer Biology Program

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Nobel Laureate Lecture Series: Françoise Barré-Sinoussi - Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology 2008

June 8, 2017, 17:00 - 18:30

Contemplating an end to the HIV epidemics - what is left to be done?

Much progress has been made in the development of tools to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV infection. However, we still do not have a vaccine and antiretroviral treatments are not curative as HIV persists in many compartments of the body. The implementation of these tools at large scale worldwide remains a critical challenge as well as the sustainability of these life-long therapies. Recent advances in our understanding of protective immune responses and of HIV persistence have generated some optimism about the development of novel vaccine and HIV cure strategies, which are an absolute necessity to end the HIV epidemics. [read more](#)



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Heidelberg Forum for Young Life Scientists "A Tale of Cells & Organisms"

8 - 9 June 2017

The Heidelberg Forum for Young Life Scientists (HFYLS) is a bi-annual scientific symposium organized by PhD students working in the field of life sciences in Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany. The goal is to bring together young scientists from all over the world, from a broad range of life-science-related disciplines, for a two-day conference. In doing so, the organizers seek to foster interdisciplinary exchange and to provide new insights into a broad range of current research topics. [read more](#)



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3rd International Symposium: "Innovations in Oncology" - How to Eliminate Colon Cancer - A Road Map



26 - 27 June 2017

Hosted by the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg, the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), the Heidelberg University Hospital, the Felix Burda Foundation, the German Network against Colorectal Cancer and in cooperation with the German Cancer Society (DKG) the 3rd International Symposium: "Innovations in Oncology" will bring together scientists and physicians from academics to industry and foster interdisciplinary communication and collaboration.

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Personalized Medicine - International Symposium 2017

3 - 4 July 2017

Key Note Speakers are among many other distinguished scientists:

Mike Snyder, Stanford

Luis Serrano Pubul, Barcelona

Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale, Oslo

Program:

The detailed program will be published by the mid June 2017 and will be sent to all registered participants via E-mail. Please find the preliminary program and the conference poster in the "Download" section. A list with a variety of hotels in Heidelberg is provided for download, too.

Conference Registration:

Registration is free of charge, but is mandatory for participating in the conference.

Registration deadline: June 19, 2017. Early registration is advised due to limited capacity.

Call for Posters / Short Talks:

If you wish to present your research as poster or short talk, please submit an abstract via the "Registration and abstract submission" Link below.

Abstract submission deadline: May 29, 2017.



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International Conference on Systems Biology of Human Disease (SBHD)



5 - 7 July 2017

The International Conference on Systems Biology of Human Disease (SBHD) is a transatlantic event and communication platform for scientific exchange that takes place alternately between the United States and Germany.

SBHD 2017 is continuing a conference series launched by Peter Sorger and colleagues from Harvard Medical School in 2008. The conference focus is on mammalian systems biology, particularly on its application to human disease and therapy.

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Job Openings

Scientific jobs

- 098/2017 Arzt/Ärztin / Facharzt/Fachärztin in der Forschung - Translationale Onkologie
- 096/2017 Bioinformatician - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) München
- 091/2017 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Freiburg
- 090/2017 Group leader position induced pluripotent stem cells and brain malignancies -
- 086/2017 Postdoc Position - Cell Plasticity and Epigenetic Remodeling
- 084/2017 Full Professorship (W3) for Translational Radiation Oncology -
- 082/2017 Postdoc in Stem Cell Research - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Frankfurt/Mainz

- 073/2017 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Tübingen
- 072/2017 Senior Scientist/ Statistician - Cancer Epidemiology
- 069/2017 Postdoc Scientists - Oncolytic Immuno-Therapeutics (LOVIT)
- 068/2017 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Frankfurt/Mainz
- 059/2017 Scientist Positions in Applied Health Economics - Health Economics
- 058/2017 Postdoc Position in Medical Image Analysis - Theoretical Bioinformatics
- 034/2017 Postdoc - Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumor Immunology
- 017/2017 Postdoc Position Wnt signaling in Mouse Developmental Biology - Molecular Embryology
- 008/2017 Postdoc Position Wnt signaling - Molecular Embryology

PhD studentships

- 097/2017 PhD Student - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) München
- 089/2017 PhD Student - DNA repair mechanisms and cancer
- 088/2017 2 PhD Studentships in Molecular Virology - Pathogenesis of Virus-Associated Tumors
- 080/2017 PhD candidate in MR image reconstruction for non-Cartesian data and quantitative susceptibility mapping using generalized sampling - Medical Physics in Radiology
- 074/2017 Naturwissenschaftliche/r Doktorand/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Tübingen
- 056/2017 Doctoral candidate - Preventive Oncology
- 047/2017 PhD Student to work on the advanced analysis of proteomic and genomic data in cancer research - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Freiburg

Laboratory / Engineering department

- 087/2017 Technical Assistant - Pathogenesis of Virus-Associated Tumors
- 085/2017 BTA/ MTA/ Biologielaborant/in - Zellplastizität und epigenetische Remodellierung
- 081/2017 BTA/ MTA/ Biologielaborant/in - Molekulare Grundlagen Gastrointestinaler Tumoren
- 077/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in - Virus-Assoziierte Karzinogenese
- 071/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in - Angewandte Funktionelle Genomik
- 066/2017 MTRA/ MFA in Teilzeit 30 Std./Woche - Radiologie
- 065/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in/ Biologielaborant/in/ MTA - Molekulare Neurobiologie
- 055/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in in Teilzeit 50% - Präventive Onkologie

Administration

- 102/2017 Arzt/ Ärztin in Teilzeit 20 Std./Woche - Krebsinformationsdienst
- 100/2017 2 Personalreferentinnen/referenten - Personalabteilung
- 095/2017 Sozialjurist/in / Jurist/in mit Schwerpunkt Sozialrecht oder Sozialarbeiter/in / Sozialpädagoge/in in Teilzeit 20 Std./Woche - Krebsinformationsdienst
- 094/2017 Managing Editor - Editorial Office Radiotherapy and Oncology
- 093/2017 Projektkoordinator/in - Stabsstelle Strategie und Programme
- 076/2017 Referent/ Referentin des NCT Direktors - Translationale Onkologie
- 075/2017 Kauffrau/ Kaufmann für Bürokommunikation - Forschung / Büro des Abteilungsleiters - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Essen/ Düsseldorf
- 070/2017 Wissenschaftsadministrator/in in München - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) München

Further job offers

- 103/2017 Tierarzt/ Tierärztin - Zentrum für Präklinische Forschung (ZPF)

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Alumni Matters

DKFZ Reception during the AACR Meeting in Washington, DC



2 April 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Join us for the DKFZ-Reception during the AACR Meeting in Washington, DC!

The Management Board of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) cordially invites alumni, friends and current co-workers of the DKFZ to a reception on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

This is a great chance to (re-)connect with the DKFZ, meet current DKFZ scientists and former

colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere!

We are looking forward to your participation!

Michael Baumann
Chairman and Scientific Director

Josef Puchta
Administrative Director

Please register directly per mail with Sarah Zimmermann sa.zimmermann@dkfz.de

Venue: Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel - 999 9th St NW, Washington, DC, USA

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Stay Connected

Join the Alumni Association

Join the Alumni Association and DKFZ Connect

Alumni members benefit from an attractive range of activities:

- Alumni Monthly electronic newsletter 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
- Biennial General Alumni Meeting and Scientific Symposium, including travel grants

All current and former DKFZ colleagues are welcome to join. Please register at www.dkfz.de/en/alumni

Join more than 1700 colleagues on DKFZ Connect, the online platform for networking and mentoring between former and current employees, including events and job postings. You can register per email or easily sync your profile with social media on www.dkfz-connect.de

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Imprint

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Research for a Life without Cancer