



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

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

Content

- » **Press Releases**
 - » **Highlight Publications**
 - » **New Research Groups**
 - » **Lectures & Conferences at DKFZ**
 - » **Job Openings at DKFZ**
 - » **Alumni News**
-

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](#)

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

[»Top](#)

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

[link to press releases](#)

[»Top](#)

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](#)

[»Top](#)

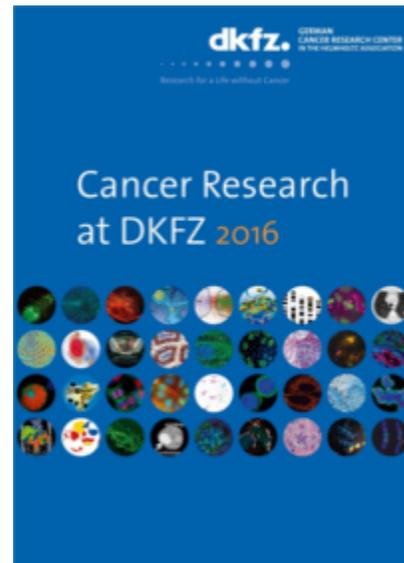
New Publication: Cancer Research at DKFZ

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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[»Top](#)

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 γ , TNF α , 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, IBC, Heidelberg, GER
Dirk Trau, Munich, GER
Mark Hübner, Götting, GER
Virginia Cornish, Columbus, USA
Sabine Moritz, Götting, GER

Invited Speakers
David Edelstein, Harvard, USA
Masahito Miyawaki, Kyoto, JPN
Robert Carls, Götting, GER
Rafi Jaegermann, Berlin, GER
Heiko Lichtenfeld, Bonn, GER
Philip Friedl, Heidelberg, GER
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.

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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

[read more](#)

[»Top](#)

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

SFB/Transregio23
VASCULAR
SYSTEMS AND DISEASES

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
Peter Carmeliet, Leuven, BEL
Lena Claesson-Welsh, Uppsala, SWE
Ivan Dikic, Frankfurt, GER
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

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

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March 27-28, 2017

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- 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

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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[»Top](#)

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)

[»Top](#)

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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[»Top](#)

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

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 and www.dkfz-connect.de

Alumni New Years Reception 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

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

[»Top](#)

Stay connected

Join us at **DKFZ Connect**, the online platform for networking and mentoring between former and current employees 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

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



[»Top](#)

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

[»Top](#)

Imprint

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GERMAN
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
IN THE HEINRICH HEIMANN ASSOCIATION

50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer