

symposium

Science and Culture beyond Frontiers *by Ursula Schöttler*

An extraordinary occasion for the exchange of science and culture between Heidelberg and Israeli partners turned up in the middle of July: The German Cancer Research Center, the University of Heidelberg, the College for Jewish Studies Heidelberg, and the City of Heidelberg jointly organized a multidisciplinary symposium at DKFZ on Friday, July 18, 2008. The symposium was a major event within the German-Israeli Year of Science and Technology (GIST) 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel.

Dr Annette Schavan, Minister of Research and Education, who opened the symposium, emphasized Heidelberg's key position as a symbol for science and research. Pointing out the importance of continued future cooperation with Israel, she welcomed the three "Young Israeli Scientists", awardees of an annual contest in Israel who had followed the invitation of her Ministry (BMBF) to Heidelberg. In the following greeting address, Ilan Mor, Deputy Ambassador of Israel in Germany referred to Goethe: science and art do not know any barriers of nationality.

Presentations of faculty of the DKFZ, the University of Heidelberg, and the College for Jewish Studies highlighted

College of Jewish Studies gave an excellent overview on Israeli history reflected in Hebrew literature. Exemplifying outstanding results from co-operative studies in human sciences, Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, University of Haifa, and Professor Thomas Maissen, University of Heidelberg, outlined the relevance of Jewish and non-Jewish thinkers and movements for modern Europe, while Professor Manfred Oeming introduced the latest findings of the Ramat Rahel archaeological project. Professor Ulrich Platt from the University of Heidelberg



presented very interesting results from a joint research project on the atmospheric chemistry at the Dead Sea, considering their impact on worldwide environmental problems.

The over 30 years of successful collaboration in cancer research between different institutions in Israel and the DKFZ were highlighted by two colleagues from the Weizmann Institute of Science,

Dr Amnon Barak, Director of the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research & Development (GIF), emphasized the outstanding activities of researchers in Heidelberg within the funding programs financed by the Foundation. Professor Wolfhard Semmler, German co-ordinator of the DKFZ-MOST co-operation in cancer research, summarized the history and the achievements of the program during the past three decades.

The symposium coincided with anniversary celebrations of 25 years of partnership between the City of Rehovot, hometown to the Weizmann Institute, and the City of Heidelberg. The Lord Mayors of both cities together with a delegation from Rehovot also attended the symposium.

The program and a summary of the presentations are available on the BMBF website "GIST" on www.gist2008.com following "Events and Database" and then either "Calendar", choosing the items "Germany" and "July" for the program, or "Highlights" for the summary.



Prof. Anat Feinberg presented a very interesting talk on Israeli history based on Hebrew literature.

historical aspects of the state of Israel and successful cooperations between researchers from institutions in Heidelberg and in Israel like the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Hebrew University and the Universities of Tel Aviv and Haifa. Professor Anat Feinberg from the



Prof. Benny Geiger addressed the role of cellular adhesion molecules in cancer growth.

namely Professor Benny Geiger who gave the keynote lecture on the involvement of cellular adhesion molecules in cancer invasion and metastasis, and Professor Varda Rotter who reviewed the role of the tumor suppressor gene p53 in apoptosis.



Talking about the impact of liberalism and republicanism on attitudes towards polity, citizenship and liberty, Prof. Fania Oz-Salzberger (left) caught the attention of Prof. Otmar D. Wiestler, Dr Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, Ilan Mor, Deputy Ambassador of Israel in Germany, and last, but not least, Dr Annette Schavan, Minister of Research and Education (from left to right).