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1/2004

dkfz

Alumni International

Dear DKFZ Alumni,

A fundamental change took place in the DKFZ in the past few months, namely the appointment of a new Chairman and Scientific Member of the Management Board, Professor Otmar Wiestler, who has now taken over from the Interim Chairman Professor Peter Lichter. In an interview and in a short statement Otmar Wiestler presents his vision of the future of the DKFZ and of the *DKFZ Alumni International*. Looking back into the past, Dr. Anthony Miller from Canada describes his experience during an almost four year fruitful period as temporary Head of the Division of Epidemiology of the DKFZ, which was particularly devoted to the establishment of many components of the European Prospective Study on Diet and Nutrition (EPIC) and of several screening studies. Professor Qin Su from China has contributed an article on two very successful research periods as a guest scientist in the DKFZ, providing a number of original observations on early stages of human liver cell cancer, which have had a persistent positive impact on the ongoing research activities of Qin Su in his home country. Personal data in this Newsletter include a note on the moving retirement ceremonial for Professor Gerhard van Kaick, longstanding Head of the Division of Oncological Diagnostics and Therapy of the DKFZ, and the mournful news of the death of two leading scientists of the DKFZ who both retired years ago, namely Professor Klaus Munk, one of the founding directors of the DKFZ, and Professor Werner

Kunz, who acted as Head of the Division of Molecular Toxicology for many years. Mentioning these colleagues who worked at the DKFZ for long periods appears to be all the more appropriate since our institution celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2004. The 1st Meeting of the *DKFZ Alumni International*, which has already been announced and will take place in the DKFZ on June 25 and 26, 2004, will be the opening event of this Anniversary. The Newsletter contains the promising program of this Meeting, starting with a Symposium in which internationally outstanding Alumni will present their recent results in cancer research. During a reception by the DKFZ Management Board on Friday night, Professor Otmar Wiestler will address the Alumni. On Saturday, highlights from the DKFZ Research Programs will be presented. An accompanying social program should help to renew old and establish new friendships between former and present DKFZ scientists from all over the world. For those Alumni who left Heidelberg long ago, we start a series in this Newsletter, showing architectural innovations in the city which indicate that not only old Heidelberg is worth visiting. Looking forward to the first Meeting of the *DKFZ Alumni International*, I would like to extend best wishes from all of us at the DKFZ.

Peter Bannasch

Changing of the Chair



On January 1st, Prof. Otmar D. Wiestler, previously Director of the Institute for Neuropathology at the University of Bonn, joined the Center as new Scientific Chairman of the Management Board. Otmar Wiestler took over the management duties from Prof. Peter Lichter, who held the position on an interim basis. Throughout his career, Wiestler's research interest has centered on the molecular mechanisms underlying brain tumors. He received his M.D. at the University of Freiburg before he joined the Department of Pathology of the University of California at San Diego as a postdoctoral fellow. In 1991, he was appointed Full Professor and Head of the Department of Neuropathology in Bonn, and, a year later, Director of the Institute for Neuropathology at the University Clinic in Bonn. Since 1994, Wiestler has headed the brain tumor reference center at the University of Bonn Medical Center, which he turned into one of the most authoritative tumor reference centers in the world, with 3,000 referred cases per year. In addition, he established two large regional collaborative research programs with grants from the German Research Council. One, based at the University of Bonn, is dedicated to unravelling the molecular causes of brain disorders. Within the other, a transregional research program, Wiestler and his colleagues have been investigating the pathomechanisms of temporal lobe epilepsy, aiming at the identification of the underlying molecular bases and the development of new therapeutic approaches. One of Wiestler's priorities in his new position at the DKFZ is to boost translational research on diagnostic microarrays to identify tumors that will respond to existing treatments. Another will be the development of therapies that selectively induce cell death in cancer cells.

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1st DKFZ Alumni International Meeting

Opening Event of the 40th Anniversary of the DKFZ

The detailed program is outlined inside this issue. A registration form can be downloaded at www.dkfz.de/alumni. You can also contact the Alumni Secretariat (address on the back page).

Dear Alumni,

2 interview

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Cancer Research Center. Following its inauguration by Karl-Heinrich Bauer in 1964, DKFZ has evolved as an internationally renowned research institution devoted to uncovering the mysteries of cancer.

Many of you have made important contributions over the years. Without the vision and enthusiasm of my predecessors and our dedicated research teams, it would not have been possible to establish this center of excellence.

Fascinating new developments in fields such as molecular biology, cell biology, immunology, developmental biology, genome and proteome research, animal models, virology, imaging, radio-oncology and many others have allowed fundamental insights into the mechanisms of carcinogenesis. During the last decade, we have experienced an explosion of knowledge in these exciting areas of the life sciences. Unfortunately, the situation in clinical oncology remains dismal. A major task for all of us during the years ahead must be to transfer findings from the laboratory into novel diagnostic and therapeutic applications. In many areas, this transfer now appears feasible.

The mission of translational research will rely on a number of strategies. First of all, this major goal should receive more attention in our in-house research and development programs. In particular, we will rely on both, clinical and industrial partners to approach the clinical applications. An important new element involves the Comprehensive Cancer Center Heidelberg (CCC). This model institution to be jointly established by DKFZ, the Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, and the Thoraxklinik Rohrbach, will build a new, long-term partnership between clinical, preclinical and experimental oncologists. Through interdisciplinary modes for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up, all cancer patients will receive a novel quality of standardized care. Based on this clinical infrastructure, we are determined to considerably strengthen our efforts in preclinical research. I would like to invite you all to closely follow the development of our CCC. We will keep you informed about the progress of this important venture.

We are very much looking forward to welcome you at the forthcoming Alumni meeting and thank you very much for your continuous support. Kind regards,

Otmar D. Wiestler

Interview with Otmar D. Wiestler,



Professor Wiestler, welcome to the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum! Can you tell us your main reasons for coming to Heidelberg?

Prof. Wiestler: The Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum is one of the leading health research centers in Germany. It is a fascinating challenge for me to accompany this major research institute with its many staff members into a new era. My predecessors, Professor zur Hausen and Professor Lichter, jointly with the administrative-commercial director, have developed the Center into an outstanding research facility. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. On this basis, I can see excellent possibilities for the Center to embrace new tasks. Another attraction for me was the Center's location in Heidelberg where it is surrounded by many university institutes and the Max Planck Society in the Neuenheimer Feld. This offers a host of collaboration opportunities. Finally, after working in Bonn for over ten years, I felt ready to take on a new challenge. I could hardly have wished for a more attractive task than serving as the scientific head of the German Cancer Research Center.

Being a neuropathologist and an expert in the area of brain tumors, you represent a discipline that is not yet established at the Center. What are the new fields that you are planning to bring to DKFZ?

Prof. Wiestler: In my scientific work as a neuropathologist, I have focused on the molecular basis of brain tumors, stem cell research related to the nervous system, and epilepsies. There are many parallels to cancer

research. Advances in genome research, cell biology and molecular medicine are increasingly enabling us to uncover the roots of disease processes. The German Cancer Research Center is among the leading research centers in the area of tumors. Building on our excellence in basic research I aim to make use of this opportunity to develop the Center into a driving force for the transfer of research results into diagnostics and therapy. Both the scientific community and the general public expect us to think more in terms of clinical application. I can see excellent conditions for doing this in Heidelberg without weakening basic oncological research. Further aspects of my work will include promoting young scientists and enhancing interactions among the various sections of our center as well as with university partners.

You are heading the Brain Tumor Reference Center of the German Association of Neuropathology and Neuroanatomy. Will this reference center be based in Heidelberg in the future?

Prof. Wiestler: The Brain Tumor Reference Center located at the Department of Neuropathology in Bonn has evolved into an important consultation facility over the past few years. The number of referrals submitted per year has reached up to 3,000. The main tasks of the reference center are to perform reference examinations of almost all brain tumor trials in the German-speaking countries and to support numerous colleagues in Germany and its neighboring countries by offering consultation services in difficult cases. In addition, the reference center has an important training function, offers continuing education events and participates in the work of international boards. Prior to a possible transfer to DKFZ we first have to review its integration into the neuropathological diagnostic landscape at Heidelberg.

You are regarded as a scientist who interconnects basic research and clinical application in an exemplary way. How do you judge the establishment of a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Heidelberg?

Prof. Wiestler: For our future focus, i.e., to transfer findings from basic research into cancer diagnostics and therapy, we will need strong clinical partners. If these are operating in the immediate vicinity, collaboration naturally becomes easier.

New Scientific Chairman of the Management Board

Therefore I explicitly welcome the initiative of the German Cancer Research Center and the local University Hospitals to establish a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Heidelberg. Since this will be the first multidisciplinary tumor center of its kind in Germany, the CCC means an immense responsibility for us. I am optimistic that, jointly with our partners of the university medical center, we will lead this project to success. It offers vast opportunities to all parties involved to explore new areas in cancer research and clinical oncology. Not least, cancer patients in the Heidelberg/Mannheim region will benefit substantially from this novel unit.

In Bonn, an extensive tumor tissue bank containing 2000 tissue samples of the central nervous system was available to you. In Heidelberg, such a tumor bank has yet to be established. Do you have to start from scratch?

Prof. Wiestler: As a result of advances in molecular cancer research, cell biology, pathology, immunology, and imaging technology, our knowledge about cancer has increased dramatically. It is now possible in all these areas to examine tumor tissue of individual patients. Since human tumors differ substantially from cell lines and animal models, such analyses will become increasingly important. This is an experience we have made particularly in the area of brain tumors, in which hardly any suitable animal models are available to the present day. For this reason, we started many years ago to build a large collection of human brain tumors. I welcome the initiative to establish a tumor bank in Heidelberg. In this effort, we are not starting totally from scratch. For some tumor types, we already have tissue collections, for others we are still at an early stage. When building such banks it is particularly important to have access to clinical information of the patients involved. Therefore, this requires careful planning with the participation of clinical partners. Within the context of the Comprehensive Cancer Center in Heidelberg, I believe there are great opportunities to establish a powerful tumor bank which will have relevance far beyond Heidelberg.

You became known to the public when you submitted the first application for funds supporting research using embryonic stem cells together with your co-worker Oliver

Brüstle. Will you establish this research area at DKFZ?

Prof. Wiestler: In the context of my upcoming move, people have voiced concerns that the German Cancer Research Center will perform large-scale research on human embryonic stem cells. This, however, will not be the case! Nevertheless, the topic of stem cells will indeed play an important role. There is ample evidence from stem cell biology suggesting that stem cells and cancer cells have many features in common. This could be the key to elucidating critical characteristics of tumor cells. Should the concept of a common origin of neoplasms from stem cells prove to be true, then we will have to devote much more attention to this aspect. This also implies a new approach to developing treatment methods that is starting to become apparent. In order to explore this important area, we are planning to establish Cancer Stem Cells as a novel research focus at the Center with the participation of many laboratories. With this topic, we can jointly establish an important new line of research.

Will you also bring staff of your previous team?

Prof. Wiestler: In Bonn I was very fortunate



to work with quite a large number of talented young scientists on a regular basis. I am planning to transfer several junior research groups to Heidelberg in the next few months. The majority of these groups are working on the topic of brain tumors. First contacts with Professor Kramer's division have already



taken place. We have been received with open arms.

For a father of six children, a relocation is not an easy decision. How does your family feel about the change?

Prof. Wiestler: Like many families of scientists we have moved many times and have spent many years in foreign countries both in Europe and overseas. After a relatively long stage in Bonn we are looking forward to finding a new home in Heidelberg. Since several of our children will have to change schools, my wife and the kids will probably follow me in August or September 2004. First of all, we need to find a suitable house. We would be very grateful for information or offers from the staff.

Professor Wiestler, let me thank you for talking to us and wish you a good start and success for your work at the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum!

*Interviewer: Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch,
Director of Press and Public Relations*

(This interview was first published in a special issue of the „DKFZ intern“ newsletter in December 2003.)



Appointments

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jürgen Debus:

Head of the Clinical Cooperation Unit Radiotherapeutic Oncology, was appointed Director of the Division of Clinical Radiology of the Radiological University Clinic Heidelberg in October 2003.

Dr. Stephan Herzig:

Head of the Emmy-Noether Junior Research Group "Molecular Metabolic Control" since October 2003.

Prof. Dr. Matthias Löhr:

Head of the Clinical Cooperation Unit Molecular Gastroenterology since October 2003.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Henri-Jacques Delecluse:

Head of the Division of Pathogenesis of Virus-Associated Tumors since Nov. 2003.

Dr. Volker Stadler:

Head of the Junior Research Group "Chip-based Peptide Libraries" since October 2003.

Awards

In honor of his work, **Prof. Dr. Dietrich Keppler**, Head of the Division of Tumor Biochemistry, was awarded a 10,000 Euro Prize by the Lucie Bolte Endowment.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Meinzer, Head of the Division of Medical and Biological Informatics, and his co-workers Matthias Thorn, Max Schöbinger, and Tobias Heimann received the doIT Software Award (15,000 Euros) for their surgery planning software.

Prof. Dr. Lothar Schad of the Division of Medical Physics in Radiology is a member of an interdisciplinary research group who received the Helmholtz Award 2003 (15,000 Euros). The group is headed by Dr. Wolfgang Rudolf Bauer from the University Clinic of Würzburg.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Wolfhard Semmler, Head of the Division of Medical Physics in Radiology, and his co-workers Jana Sikora, Dr. Reiner Umathum, and Dr. Michael Bock, were awarded 170,000 Euros by the 2003 Medical Technology Innovation Competition held by the Federal Ministry for Research.

Retirement

Prof. Dr. Claus-Hobe Schröder, provisional Head of the Division of Virus-Host Interactions, retired on February 1st 2003.

Farewell to Prof. Gerhard van Kaick

In a ceremony held in the DKFZ on November 7th, colleagues and friends said goodbye to Prof. Gerhard van Kaick, retired Head of the former Division of Oncological Diagnostics and Therapy. From 1998 until 2002, Prof. van Kaick had been one of the Deputies of the Scientific Chairman. Prof. Wolfhard Semmler, who took over van Kaick's position as Speaker of the Research Program Innovative Cancer Diagnostics and Therapy, honored his predecessor in a commemorative speech. He recognized van Kaick's outstanding appreciation inside and outside the DKFZ, characterizing him as a person with an exceptionally high degree of dedication. As a physician, van Kaick always regarded his patients to be at the center of his efforts, as a teacher, his students, and as a supervisor, his colleagues, Semmler said.



Gerhard van Kaick (right) says goodbye to his colleague Wolfhard Semmler.

An English Canadian Epidemiologist in DKFZ

by Anthony Miller

At the end of June 1996, I retired from the University of Toronto, planning to go sailing, and my wife and I set off down the US intra-coastal waterway for the Caribbean, stopping on Chesapeake Bay on the way. The Chesapeake Bay is a large body of water near Washington, and near where the US National Cancer Institute is based. On the west shore is the city of Annapolis, the capital of the State of Maryland, where we decided to remain while further work was done on the boat. Largely during the winter of 1996 – 97, I worked at the US NCI in the Division of Cancer Prevention and

the idea of going to the Caribbean, took the boat further down the intra-coastal waterway to Charleston, South Carolina for the winter of 1997 – 98, and flew to Lyon. Subsequently in the spring of 1998 we flew back to sail the boat to the Mediterranean (with three crew with us), and became Europeans again! At



Anthony Miller (right) and the EPIC Group in the DKFZ Communication Center.

Control, and our stay on our boat in Annapolis extended to a year. During this period, I was invited to spend a year at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, subsequently extended to two. So we gave up

the end of 1998 I had a call from Prof. Harald zur Hausen, inviting me to consider coming to Heidelberg, to take over the leadership of the Division of Epidemiology on a temporary

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Progressing together in liver cancer research

by Qin Su

I first became aware of the DKFZ while reading in the library of the Fourth Military Medical University at Xi'an, China. It was in the late 1980s and I was studying literature by authors of the Krebsforschungszentrum on carcinogenesis associated with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human papilloma virus (HPV). HBV and liver cancer have been our main research topics for two decades, as this neoplasm is one of the most prevalent malignancies in China, with most cases apparently being causally related to chronic HBV infection. I had noted interesting findings in experimental hepatocarcinogenesis studied in several laboratories, including the DKFZ Division of Cell Pathology headed by Prof. Peter Bannasch. The animal models of chemical and viral hepatocarcinogenesis developed or adopted in his laboratory appeared to be particularly relevant for the understanding of neoplastic development in the human liver. Work with these models had shown that the appearance of overt cancer is regularly preceded by various types of foci and nodules of altered hepatocytes. Compelling evidence for a preneoplastic nature for the focal lesions had been provided, and the nodules were considered as benign neoplastic precursors of liver cancer. In our own studies of HBV-infected human liver specimens, we had observed some specific cell types and nodular lesions whose appearance was associated with the reactivation and overexpression of viral and cellular genes, including the HBV X gene and that encoding insulin-like growth factor II. However, little was known at that time about the relationship between the lesions observed in human liver and those in animal models. Therefore I was keen to learn whether the cellular and molecular changes observed in early stages of experimental hepatocarcinogenesis resemble those occurring during the development of human liver cancer. In 1995, I made contact with Dr. Bannasch, who had also started to study human hepatic preneoplasia. I received a guest research scientist fellowship from the DKFZ, providing the opportunity for an extended visit in his laboratory from the beginning of 1996 to the end of 1997. I could take advantage of a tissue bank containing almost 300 human liver explants from patients with various diseases, such as chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer, as well as numerous rat and mouse liver samples. Discussions with Peter Bannasch and Walter J. Hofmann, then at the Institute of Pathology of the Heidelberg University Hospital, eventually resulted in a consensus on the histological criteria for appropriate diagnoses of the lesions. Our observations revealed the frequent presence of foci and

nodules of altered hepatocytes in human livers comparable to those found in animal models, and confirmed their sequential occurrence and progression to liver cancer. Back at the Tangdu Hospital in Xi'an, I was able to show in a clinical pathological survey that the diagnostic criteria we had developed were applicable to liver biopsies. This suggested they could be used for secondary prevention of liver cell cancer, particularly in patients with chronic hepatitis or cirrhosis. In cooperation with colleagues from the Divisions of Cell Pathology and Virus-Host-Interactions of the DKFZ, and from the Heidelberg University Hospital we conducted additional studies on the pathogenesis of liver cell cancer. For at least some of the HBV-associated cases, we demonstrated a possible role for the HBV x protein in the



Former guest scientist Qin Su talking with technician Gabriele Schmidt in the laboratory of Peter Bannasch.

development of liver cell carcinoma. We also provided immunohistochemical and immunoprecipitation evidence for a lack of p53 gene mutations in hepatocellular preneoplastic lesions and early-stage cancers. These results argued against the view that p53 gene alterations play a key role during early stages of liver cancer development, but indicated an involvement of such genetic changes in cancer progression. There was also no direct association between changes in the expression of p53 and HBV x proteins in HBV-infected neoplastic and non-neoplastic hepatic tissues, disprov-

ing the hypothesis of functional inactivation of wild-type p53 protein by conjugation with the x protein during hepatocarcinogenesis, proposed by several authors. While enjoying the pleasure of scientific activities, I developed friendships with Peter Bannasch, Hans J. Hacker and Claus H. Schroeder. I also became well acquainted with Doris Mayer, Fritz Klimek, Dirk Nehrbass and other colleagues of the group as well as from other Divisions and Institutes inside and outside the DKFZ. In July 1999, I obtained another DKFZ grant and continued my collaboration with Prof. Claus Schroeder, working in his laboratory (Virus-Host-Interactions) in the Research Program of Applied Tumor Virology (ATV) until August 2000. Our project was to establish a seroassay based on PCR allowing convenient

detection of HBV transcripts spanning the X gene with different polyadenylation signals. We attained success in 2000, and the procedure has since been used in joint projects of the DKFZ and the Tangdu Hospital in Xi'an for the determination of HBV expression profiles in hepatic tissues. It has for example allowed estimation of the risk of developing liver cancer and monitoring anti-HBV therapy. The cooperation between colleagues from the DKFZ and the Tangdu Hospital has been persistently encouraged by both institutions and resulted in regular meetings and an exchange program between Xi'an and Heidelberg. In addition to the scientific collaboration, the exchange of ideas related to various areas of human life

between colleagues with different cultural backgrounds has considerably improved mutual understanding. I am sure that the deep impressions of visits to outstanding cultural sites, such as the Castle or the Hauptstraße in Heidelberg, and the Terracotta Warrior Museum or the Great Pagoda Tower in Xi'an, will forever remain in our minds. During a workshop at the DKFZ in 2002 I realized how familiar I had remained with many colleagues, with coffee shops, old buildings and streets in the romantic city, as well as the Neckar River and the Heiligenberg.

Qin Su graduated from Weifang Medical College in Shandong Province in 1982, and obtained his Ph.D in Pathology in 1990 from the Fourth Military Medical University at Xi'an, China. He began to work as a diagnostic pathologist at Tangdu Hospital in 1990, where he stayed for 13 years, advancing through ranks to a full professor. He was appointed the Head of the Department of Pathology of the hospital in 1992,

remaining in this position till his recent change to the Department of Pathology in the Cancer Institute and Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College at Beijing. In 2001, he was invited to be a visiting professor in Weifang Medical College. Qin Su has published more than 100 articles in Chinese and international scientific journals.

1st DKFZ Alumni International Meeting

All Alumni, from abroad and from Germany, and all active scientists of the DKFZ are heartily invited to participate in the first Meeting of *DKFZ Alumni International* to be held in the Communication Center of the DKFZ from June 25 to 26, 2004, opening the 40th Anniversary of the DKFZ. The scientific program of the meeting is outlined below. I am grateful to the Alumni Thomas Boehm from the Max-Planck-Institute of Immunobiology in Freiburg and Roland Moll from the Institute of Pathology of the University of Marburg, and to all Speakers of the DKFZ Research Programs for their help in the preparation of a very promising program. My special thanks go to the internationally outstanding Alumni who agreed to actively participate in the Symposium on Friday by presenting their research. Likewise, I am grateful to the DKFZ Scientists presenting highlights of the Research Programs on Saturday, June 26, and last but not least to the Scientific and the Administrative-Commercial Members of the DKFZ Management Board who persistently supported all efforts to organize this rewarding meeting. As a special social event, the colleagues of the Heidelberg MD Orchestra, conducted by Prof. Michael Steinhausen, will perform a Mozart symphony on Friday evening. Several requests from Alumni who were interested to present recent

results of their work, in addition to the topics discussed during the Symposium, prompted us to invite all Alumni to exhibit posters (90 cm width x 120 cm height) on Friday. The posters will be discussed in the time between the Symposium and the reception by the DKFZ Management Board. Poster awards (travel support of 500 Euros each) will be offered to three young Alumni (up to 35 years of age) with the most outstanding poster presentations selected by an independent committee. We ask all Alumni and active DKFZ scientists who plan to participate in the Meeting to register by May 3, and those Alumni who intend to present a poster to inform us by then as well. Participation in the scientific program is free of registration fees. In addition to the scientific sessions, an attractive social event (boat trip on the Neckar River) has been prepared by Elfriede Mang from the Alumni Secretariat. For information on hotels, please visit the homepage of the Heidelberg tourist information (www.cvb-heidelberg.de) or call the Tourist Hotline +49 (0)6221-19433. I sincerely hope that a large number of Alumni and active DKFZ scientists will take advantage of this first Meeting of *DKFZ Alumni International*, and I look forward to welcoming many of you in Heidelberg.

Peter Bannasch

Friday, June 25, 2004, Lecture Hall, DKFZ Communication Center

Welcome and Introduction

9.00 *Otmar D. Wiestler*, Chairman and Scientific Member of the DKFZ Management Board

Peter Bannasch, Coordinator
DKFZ Alumni International

Pathobiology of Cancer Cells

Chair: *Allan Balmain* and *Roland Moll*

9.15 *Allan Balmain*, San Francisco
Cancer susceptibility: from mouse models to human populations

9.45 *Klaus H. Kaestner*, Philadelphia
Fox 11 is the first mesenchymal modifier of APC gastrointestinal carcinogenesis

10.15 Coffee break

10.45 *Stefan Rose-John*, Kiel
Role of gp 130 in stem cell biology and cancer

11.15 *Hartmut Beug*, Wien
Signal integration in epithelial plasticity and metastasis

11.45 *Roland Moll*, Marburg
Architectural proteins of epithelial cells in histopathological diagnosis of metastases

12.15 Lunch break, DKFZ Cafeteria

Self versus non-self discrimination in health and disease

Chair: *Thomas Boehm* and *C. Garrison Fathman*

14.00 *Jacques Neefjes*, Amsterdam
The MHC-class II microdomain and transport to the plasma membrane

14.30 *Hans-Georg Rammensee*, Tübingen
Patient-specific tumor peptide selection for vaccination

15.00 *Percy A. Knolle*, Bonn
Organ-resident antigen-presenting cells in the liver – organ-specific control of the immune-response

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 *C. Garrison Fathman*, Stanford
GRAIL, a gene related to anergy in lymphocytes

16.30 *Thomas Boehm*, Freiburg
The evolution of the adaptive immune system

17.00 **Poster Discussion with coffee**
Lecture Rooms 1 and 2, Communication Center

20.00 **Reception by the DKFZ Management Board**
Heidelberg MD Orchestra,
Conductor: *Michael Steinhausen*
W. A. Mozart, Symphonia Concertante K.V. 364

Otmar D. Wiestler
Perspectives of cancer research at DKFZ

1st DKFZ Alumni International Meeting

Saturday, June 26, Lecture Hall, DKFZ Communication Center

Highlights from the DKFZ Research Programs (RP)

Chair: *Petra Boukamp and Peter Lichter*

- 9.00 *Christof Niehrs*,
RP Cell and Tumor Biology:
Highlights in Cell and Tumor Biology at the DKFZ
- 9.25 *Stefan Wiemann*,
RP Functional and Structural Genomics:
Connecting large-scale genome analysis and
bioinformatics in disease-oriented research
- 9.50 *Gabriele Nagel*,
RP Cancer Risk Factors and Prevention:
The European investigation into nutrition and Cancer
(EPIC)
- 10.15 Coffee break
- 10.45 *Gerhard Moldenhauer*,
RP Tumor Immunology:
Use of antibodies in cancer therapy

11.10 *Wolfgang Schlegel*,
RP Innovative Cancer Diagnostics and Therapy:
New developments in cancer treatment with ionizing
radiation

11.35 *Michael Pawlita*,
RP Infection and Cancer:
Seroepidemiological studies to link human
papillomavirus (HPV) infections to human cancer

Organization and Perspectives of DKFZ Alumni International

Chair: *Peter Bannasch and Harald zur Hausen*

12.00 *Peter Bannasch*, Introduction

12.45 Lunch (at Restaurants in the vicinity of the DKFZ:
“Fritz”, “Olive”, Zoo Restaurant)

14.20 – 17.30 **Boat Trip on the Neckar River** (snacks and
drinks available at own expense). Boarding
platform: Marriott Hotel, at the river banks
opposite from the DKFZ.



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basis. Prof. Matti Hakama of Finland had had that role for a year, but had to return to Tampere. I came to Heidelberg in January 1999 for consultations, and in effect assumed my new role from February, spending a week a month in DKFZ until I became full time the following September, with the formal designation of provisional Head of the newly formed Division of Clinical Epidemiology. Prof. Jürgen Wahrendorf, whose illness caused the crisis in the former Division, became head of a new Unit of Environmental Epidemiology. Although I had visited DKFZ several times before, I had never worked in Germany, and indeed, had been advised by several friends that it was impossible to perform good epidemiology in Germany, largely because of the stringent data protection laws. Therefore, one of my earliest actions was to visit the Office of Data Protection in Stuttgart, and discovered that the principles to which they wished us to adhere were very similar to those I had accepted conducting cancer epidemiology studies in Canada. Very shortly after, these principles were again challenged by the Human Experimentation Committee of the University of Heidelberg. The difficulty was

reconciling the consent form deemed adequate for epidemiology studies when participants enrolled in the Heidelberg component of the European Prospective Study of Diet and Nutrition (EPIC) in the early 1990s, with current requirements for studies on stored blood specimens, especially if genetics was involved. By 1998, the general expectation was specific consent for genetic studies, and we had to convince the Human Experimentation Committee that the words we had in the original consent form implicitly applied to genetic studies, and after two meetings, they agreed. This experience, and the other studies already ongoing in the Division conducted by my colleagues, convinced me that it is possible to conduct good epidemiology studies in Germany, and I have tried to be active in promoting this ever since. My time in DKFZ was eventually extended to four years, and came to an end on April 30, 2003. During that time, we were able

to establish Heidelberg in a leadership role of many components of EPIC, and initiate many new epidemiology and screening studies. A laboratory was provided for the work of the Division, actively used for genetic and biomarker studies. We established a number of new, collaborative teams, both within and outside the Division, especially with colleagues in other Divisions of DKFZ, but also with other centers in Germany and Europe as a whole. My wife and I very much enjoyed our time in Heidelberg, and we shall always cherish the friends we made and the memories we have. Writing this in my study in Canada with snow falling outside, it seems a long way from strolling along the banks of the Neckar, or walking up the Hauptstrasse, or sipping excellent German beer or wine. Although we may never bring our boat up the Rhine and Neckar, we shall always look back on our period in DKFZ with the greatest pleasure.

dkfz Alumni International

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Peter Bannasch
(p.bannasch@dkfz.de)

Alumni Sekretariat: Elfriede Mang (e.mang@dkfz.de)
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280

D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany

Phone: +49-(0)6221-42-4499, Fax: +49-(0)6221-42-4498

Internet: www.dkfz.de/alumni

Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum in der

Hermann von Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

Press and Public Relations

Editorial Responsibility: Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch

Editing: Daniel Stolte (ds), Dr. Malcolm Moore

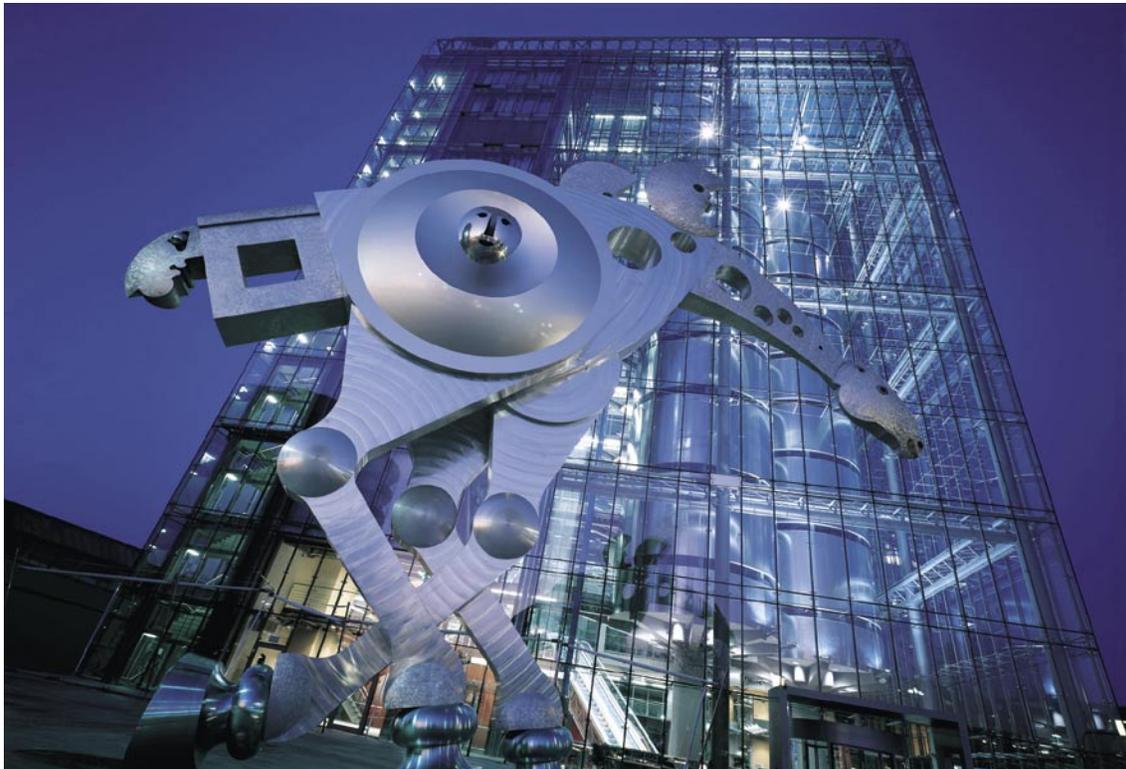
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dkfz



A transparent cube of 12,000 square meters of glass, held together by 3,000 tons of steel: The Print Media Academy of the print machine manufacturer Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG was opened in April 2000. With its two "print rollers" hosting seminar rooms, the visitor feels as if entering the inner workings of a giant high-tech printing machine. The Print Media Academy, located opposite the main train station, was designed as a communication and learning center for the print and media industry, but is also open for scientific events. The three-legged stainless-steel creature seemingly passing in front of the building is known to the people of Heidelberg as the "S-printing Horse."

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Obituaries

While this second edition of the newsletter was in the making, the DKFZ community has lost two long standing members.

Prof. Dr. Klaus Munk, who died at the age of 81, was with the DKFZ from its very beginnings. From 1966 until his retirement in 1991, Munk was Director of the Institute for Virus Research and headed the Division of Human Tumor Viruses. From 1974 to 1977 he was Chairman of the Board of Directors. He dedicated his scientific work in particular to elucidating the roles of viruses in tumor development. His colleagues will remember him as a kind person with strong interest in a variety of fields.

Prof. Dr. Horst Werner Kunz, Head of the Division of Molecular Toxicology in the former Institute of Biochemistry, passed away on October 25 at the age of 81. Having worked at the Center since 1977, Kunz made significant contributions to the understanding of the toxicological and biochemical effects of tumor-promoting substances from the environment. In the DKFZ Prof. Kunz will be remembered as a colleague renowned for his empathetic and balancing character.