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50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer



alumni

DEUTSCHES KREBSFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM

7th General Alumni Meeting on June 9-11, 2016

meeting

7th General Alumni Meeting on June 9 – 11, 2016 DKFZ Heidelberg

The forthcoming Alumni Meeting provides an excellent opportunity for cancer researchers and clinicians to share experiences of the past and to discuss visions for the future.

In the session Mentoring on Thursday, Adelheid Cerwenka, Susanne Weg-Remers and Hai-kun Liu will focus on different kinds of career opportunities in the cancer field. Additionally, Christian Tidona will introduce BioMed X. The Innovation Center is an exciting new collaboration model at the interface between academia and industry.

of the DNA itself as well as wrapping histone proteins. Sequencing of cancer genomes of different tumor diseases has demonstrated that mutations in components of the epigenetic machinery result in deregulated activity of genes with functions like growth regulation. Further, dysregulation of the activity status of the epigenetic system can lead to reprogramming of normal into cancer cells (dedifferentiation). The molecular understanding of epigenetic dysregulation of the genome is highly relevant from a therapeutic point of view, as there is an increasing

of epigenetic drugs and to explore a rational combination of this new class of drugs with other therapeutic modalities.

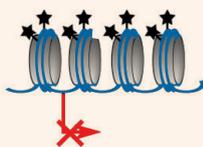
The invited speakers are internationally recognized scientists who will lecture on the relevance of epigenetic research to get more insight into the etiology and treatment of cancer. Further, you shouldn't miss the poster presentations of young scientists on recent research findings which will be concluded with an Award Ceremony. Beside six poster prizes of 500 Euro, the DKFZ Alumni/Cancer Letters Award for International Scientists endowed with 5,000 Euro will be presented during the Reception on Friday afternoon. International scientists may submit their application in spring 2016. A reminder will be forwarded early in 2016 to all DKFZ Alumni and current scientists via e-mail.

You may also take advantage of the opportunity to exchange with current and former colleagues in a less formal way during both the reception and the excursion to regional sites in Darmstadt and Heppenheim (for details, please see page 4) that conclude the 7th General Alumni Meeting on Saturday. We look forward to welcoming you in Heidelberg next June

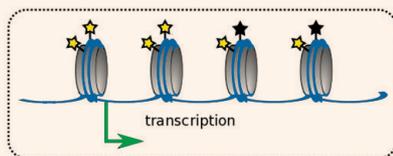
Manfred Schwab

Epigenetic regulation

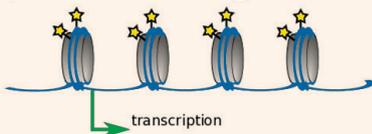
**normal cell: histone modifications
(closed chromatin configuration)**



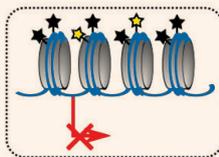
cancer cell: loss of histone methylation



**normal cell: histone modifications
(open chromatin configuration)**



cancer cell: loss of histone acetylation



acetyl group ★ methyl group ★ transcription → no transcription ✗

The topic of the Scientific Symposium on Friday is "Clinical Epigenetics", an area that is attracting increasing attention and importance. The human genome is encoded by the DNA sequence. Alterations in genes (mutations) are primarily responsible for the onset of many diseases including cancer. The functional status of the genome, i.e. the pattern of genes with on and off status, is controlled by a packaging machinery that regulates accessibility of genetic information to the reading machinery. This control system summed up by the expression epigenetics, is located outside the DNA and essentially consists of chemical modifications

number of drugs that are able to interfere with epigenetic control mechanisms. These include, among others, inhibitors of DNA methyltransferases, histone deacetylases and bromodomain-inhibitors.

Based on clinical trials some of these drugs already have been approved for the treatment of several diseases, such as myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) as well as certain leukemias. Currently the biggest challenge in the field is to identify biomarkers for predicting mechanism-based effectiveness of epigenetically-active drugs to certain tumor diseases. Further, it's pivotal to enable a targeted assignment of pati-

meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016, DKFZ, Communication Center

- 12:45 Registration, mounting of posters (Foyer)
- 13:00 **WELCOME** (Lecture Hall)
Manfred Schwab, DKFZ Heidelberg
- MENTORING**
Chair: Barbara Janssens, DKFZ Heidelberg
- 13:15 **Adelheid Cerwenka**, DKFZ Heidelberg
The joys and challenges of an international academic scientific career
- 14:00 **Susanne Weg-Remers**, DKFZ Heidelberg
Career perspectives in science management and science communication
- 14:45 **Hai-kun Liu**, DKFZ Heidelberg
A personal view of how to pursue an academic career in the DKFZ
- 15:30 **Christian Tidona**, BioMedX Heidelberg
Biomedical innovation at the interface between academia and industry – the value of mentorship
- 16:15 *Coffee Break*
- 17:00 Poster Session (Foyer)
- 18:30 *Departure for Kulturbrauerei*
- 19:30 *Dinner at Kulturbrauerei, Heidelberg (speakers and registered Alumni members)*

Friday, June 10, 2016, DKFZ, Communication Center

- 09:00 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
(Conferene Room K1/K2, for Alumni members)
- Agenda**
- Approval of the Agenda and of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
 - Report on the Activities of the Alumni by the Chairman
 - Report by the Treasurer
 - Report by the Auditors
 - Approval of the Board's Actions
 - Election of Board Members
 - Election of Auditor
 - Honorary members
 - Any other business
- 10:00 *Coffee Break*

Friday, June 10, 2016, DKFZ, Communication Center

- CLINICAL EPIGENETICS** (Lecture Hall)
Chair: Angela Risch, University of Salzburg
- 10:30 **Olaf Witt**, DKFZ, Heidelberg
Dirty drugs meet precision medicine: HDAC inhibitors
- 11:15 **Stefan Pfister**, DKFZ, Heidelberg
DNA methylation fingerprints for accurate tumor classification
- 12:00 **Toshikazu Ushijima**, Natl. Cancer Center Res. Inst., Tokyo
Epigenetic field formation by chronic inflammation, and its application to precision risk diagnosis
- 12:45 *Lunch Break (Poster Session continued)*
Chair: Angela Risch, University of Salzburg
- 14:30 **Jean-Pierre Issa**, Temple University, Philadelphia
Epigenetic Therapy
- 15:15 **Manel Esteller**, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Inst., Barcelona
Cancer Epigenetics: From knowledge to applications
- 16:15 *Coffee Break*
- RECEPTION** (Foyer)
- 16:30 Welcome Address
- 16:45 Awarding Ceremony (DKFZ Alumni/Cancer Letters Award for International Scientists and 6 Poster Prizes)
- 17:15 Collegium Musicum of the Heidelberg University Chamber Choir
- 17:30 **Michael Boutros**, DKFZ, Heidelberg
Recent key developments at the DKFZ
- 18:00 **Marius Schwabenland**, Alumni Heidelberg Life-Science Lab e. V., Heidelberg
A sustainable model for supporting young scientists: the Alumni of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab e.V.
- 18:30 Collegium Musicum of the Heidelberg University Brass Orchestra
- 18:45 *Buffet*

meeting

Saturday, June 11, 2016

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

(Departure from the Communication Center)

09:00 *Bus trip to Darmstadt: Jugendstilmuseum (Art Nouveau) at Mathildenhöhe, lunch, guided visit to Heppenheim, Coffee at the Starkenburg*



Registration and Call for Abstracts

We ask all Alumni and current scientists of the DKFZ, friends and cooperation partners of the DKFZ, the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab, Heidelberg University and related research institutions who plan to participate in the meeting to register by **May 30, 2016**.

The first 40 registrants will have the opportunity to participate in a round table discussion with one of the speakers of the Session "Mentoring" during the coffee break on June 9.

All Alumni or other participants who intend to present a poster should submit the title and a short abstract by sticking to the deadline as well. Participation is free of charge. For registration and poster application, please complete the online form on <http://alumni2016.dkfz.de/registration.aspx>

Contact:

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6 Merck Poster Awards

We are glad to announce 6 Merck Poster Awards for the most outstanding Posters..

Deadline: May 30, 2016

Please, register for the meeting first and then submit the poster abstract electronically:

<http://alumni2016.dkfz.de/abstracts.aspx>

We are indebted to Merck for supporting the 7th Alumni Meeting with a total of 6,000 Euro. The sum will be spent for 6 Merck Poster Awards with 500 Euro each and the rest for Merck Travel grants.