



## Christmas Newsletter of the PostDoc Network (PDN)

We, the recently formed PostDoc Network (PDN), are happy to inform you right before Christmas about our achievements and ongoing activities.

The major goals of our Network are to allow a better networking between PostDocs, to open a platform to discuss and support the career development of PostDocs, and to set up a representation of PostDocs towards the DKFZ administration. In the last few months, we initiated advanced training courses dedicated especially to the needs of PostDocs, and a questionnaire was developed to determine the primary needs of PostDocs. In addition, a SharePoint platform was set up to discuss topics and to share information between PostDocs. Finally, we were happy to announce that we could attract an exceptional speaker from Roche Europe for our first Career Seminar on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. All achievements of the PDN will be officially presented to the DKFZ-public at our Kick-Off meeting scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 (starting at 5 pm).

### Achievements of the PDN so far

#### 1. Career Seminar

We started our Career Seminar Series on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 with the high-profile speaker Dr. Jürgen Schwiezer, the former CEO of Roche Diagnostics. He gave us valuable insights into his view on career options for PostDocs as the former leader of a large globally operating company. For a detailed report on Dr. Schwiezer's talk, please see the corresponding page on the PDN SharePoint ([Direct link](#)). We thank all people who helped to organize this event, all of you for joining the first seminar and for the intensive discussion, and we hope that you will also actively participate in the next seminar (speaker and date will be announced in time). Some PostDocs will then also have the opportunity to have dinner together with the speaker.





## 2. Results from Questionnaire Fall 2010

More than 130 PostDocs have answered the PDN Questionnaire concerning advanced training and career development for PostDocs. We would like to thank all PostDocs who have participated. Based on the results of this questionnaire, which can be viewed in detail on the PDN SharePoint ([Direct link](#)), the advanced training department of the DKFZ will offer new trainings during 2011 to specifically meet PostDoc training needs.

## 3. Information Seminars for PostDocs - Past and Planned

The PDN will continue to offer information seminars on career development both inside and outside of academia. One important highlight in this respect was the recent launching of the Career Seminars for PostDocs on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 (see above).

Recently, Astrid Hoffmann (from Human Resources) gave a presentation on the topic of contracts with limited duration and "The Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz". She patiently answered the many questions which arose during a very lively discussion with the 50 attending PostDocs.

In spring 2011, the PDN together with members of INESS will organize a seminar on the topic "Habilitation". This seminar will offer the possibility to obtain first hand information from recent successful candidates working at DKFZ on how to approach a Habilitation project at the Medical Faculty and the Faculty for Life Sciences.

## 4. Work-family balance

The PDN is creating a working group dealing with work-family balance. The aim is to bring PostDocs together to discuss their work-family situation and to exchange ideas and experiences. The first step is to evaluate PostDocs' interests and needs. If you are interested in this topic, please contact the coordinator of this group Maiwen Caudron-Herger, [m.caudron@dkfz.de](mailto:m.caudron@dkfz.de) directly.

We are already in contact with Karin Greulich-Bode ([Gleichstellungsbeauftragte](#)), who is taking care of many topics regarding work-family balance. Beside this, we had a meeting with the advanced training department ([Weiterbildungsabteilung](#)) of the DKFZ to discuss that employees with family should be seen as a particular interest group. Therefore, it was decided to list seminars and trainings that might be helpful for this group separately, and to implement this in the staff member portal ([Mitarbeiterportal](#)). In general, the advanced training department always appreciates feedback and input with respect to the training program. You may contact Martina Kunz ([m.kunz@dkfz.de](mailto:m.kunz@dkfz.de)) or Ramona Henrich ([r.henrich@dkfz.de](mailto:r.henrich@dkfz.de)) with your suggestions and comments.



## 5. Speakers lunch with distinguished lecturers

The [speakers-lunch](#) was initially designed for PhD students, and is now also opened for PostDocs. Besides the speaker and four PhD students, up to four PostDocs may take part on a first-come/first-serve basis. The PDN was also offered the great opportunity to invite a speaker for the Distinguished Lecturer series in the name of the DKFZ PostDocs. For speaker suggestions, just send an email to [postdoc-network@dkfz.de](mailto:postdoc-network@dkfz.de). Please include a brief comment on why he or she would fit best for the Distinguished Lecturer Series.

## Important Upcoming Events

### The PDN Kick-Off meeting

The PDN committee is preparing a big Kick-Off meeting to officially celebrate the launch of the PostDoc Network PDN at the DKFZ. This Kick-Off will be on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 starting at 5 pm in the Communication Center in the main building.

The program will include active contributions from the management board and other active in-house supporters of the PDN, such as the WiRa and INESS. We are looking forward to bringing together PostDocs of the DKFZ, the ZMBH, and the NCT for exchange, networking and for a happy celebration of the PDN inauguration. Right after the official Program, there will be plenty of opportunities for interactions at all levels, and all PostDocs are invited to a party. The detailed program will be announced in due time.

In case you are interested in helping us to organize this big event, just send an email to [postdoc-network@dkfz.de](mailto:postdoc-network@dkfz.de).

### PDN Logo Competition

One important part for a sustainable visibility is still missing: a PDN-logo. Therefore, the race is on for all PostDocs to design a logo for the PDN!

To elect the best logo there will be a survey all PostDocs can attend. The best logo is to be elected by all PostDocs.

The winner logo will be displayed on the [PDN SharePoint](#), and on all official documents of the PDN. Furthermore, the designer of the winning logo will receive a 300.- Euro voucher to attend a conference of his or her choice and will present the logo at our Kick-Off meeting! The deadline to submit a logo is the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2011.

Please send all logos to [postdoc-network@dkfz.de](mailto:postdoc-network@dkfz.de)



The PDN Committee, November 2010

**If you want to see your ideas put into action: join us!**

Write to [PostDoc-Network@dkfz.de](mailto:PostDoc-Network@dkfz.de)

**Please, forward this newsletter to other PostDocs.**



## The PDN Committee



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**Could be you...**

Your interests

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## Outgoing members



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