

Spring Newsletter of the PostDoc Network (PDN)

Editorial

Almost two years after the first meeting organized for PostDocs on the initiative of the Interactive Network of Senior Scientists (INESS), the PostDoc Network (PDN) is now an established structure at the DKFZ. At this point, we, the current members of the PDN Committee, would like to thank our predecessors for the efficiency and top quality of their work that brought the PDN up to the recognized status it has now. The Kick-Off Meeting of the PDN took place on the 17th of February 2011, and the speaker of the PDN was invited to join the DKFZ Future Conference that took place at the end of March to present the visions of the PostDocs at the DKFZ.

The aim of the PDN is to represent the PostDoc's interests towards the management board of the DKFZ, in order to achieve the best conditions for scientific output and career perspectives. Therefore, several specific sub-groups were created to provide the optimal infrastructure to raise the visibility of PostDocs inside and outside of the DKFZ, to foster career development and to increase social and scientific networking between PostDocs. In this newsletter, we would like to inform you about our past and up-coming activities.

The PDN Committee

General information and past events

SharePoint platform

The SharePoint platform was set up to discuss topics and to share information between PostDocs. At present, 103 PostDocs registered, which represents 50% of the estimated number of young PostDocs at the DKFZ. The organization of the **SharePoint** (<http://intracoop/sites/pdn>) follows the organization of the PDN Committee and provides up-to-date information from the

- Welcome Group
- Career Development Group
- PostDoc Retreat Group
- Get-Together Group
- Work-Life Balance Group

We look forward to your suggestions, ideas and comments about the SharePoint are welcome. If you wish to upload documents and make them available to other PostDocs, please contact Sarah Mang (s.mang@dkfz.de). Your active participation in the SharePoint is very welcome.

Career Seminar

In the second Career Seminar hosted by the PDN, Dr. Giovanna Bergamini, Group Leader and Associate Director of Cellzome AG (Heidelberg), presented her views on career chances for PostDocs. First, Dr. Bergamini gave an overview about her own career path from being a bench scientist to her current managing position. In the second part she addressed the advantages and challenges of working in a small Biotech company and explained the main differences in the daily work organization between academia and industry. Furthermore, she pointed out the main pros and cons between working in a large and in a small Biotech company. She confirmed that companies preferentially hire "fresh" PhDs or young PostDocs. She emphasized how essential it is to make a clear decision between a career in industry or academia. However, she encouraged more senior PostDocs to use their expertise as an advantage when applying for a job. The current situation on the market suggests that small Biotechs might provide more space for PostDocs who wish to continue their career within basic research. However, small companies usually offer less long-term stability to their employ-

ees. From her view as a mother that spent few years working part time, her advice was that working full time is essential for fast career progression.

Finally, Dr. Bergamini's conclusion was that there are no fixed rules in getting a job – **just try**. Apply any time and do not waste your chance.

Important up-coming events

Career Seminar

In the next Career Seminar on June 1st, Dr. Peter Nickel, a former PostDoc of the DKFZ, will give an overview of his work as scientific manager at BIOPRO BW and as consultant at 3con Management Consultants GmbH. You are all warmly invited to listen to his talk. There will be plenty of time for questions during and after the seminar.

Get-Together

We would like to establish a **PostDoc Get-Together** to improve the exchange and networking between DKFZ PostDocs. We are all spread out over many departments and buildings, and especially new people often only know the members of their own group or the people who work next-door. We think that it would be great to get as many PostDocs as possible together every second week of the month, so that people get the chance to meet on an informal basis. This will help us to make the PDN an active network where we can exchange all kinds of information about science, career planning, life in Heidelberg, and so on.

To make our Get-Together more fun and less formal, we propose to meet at **Firebowl** in the Bergheimer Straße. It has a nice beer-garden area outside where there is room for all of us. As we all attend a number

of meetings and seminars, it is not easy to find a date that fits all. So, we want **you** to decide! We set up a doodle poll ([here!](#)) where you can vote for the day(s) when you could and would attend this event. We would like to have our first Get-Together the **second week of June**. You can vote for your favorite day of the week until May 30th, then we will fix the date and send you an invitation with all the information you need.

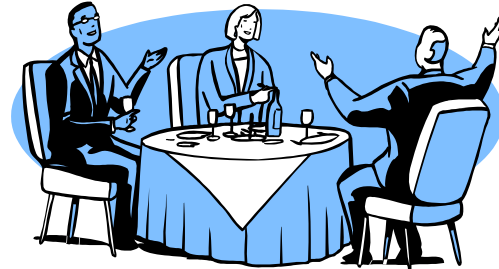
We really hope to establish a fun event from which we all can benefit. Please help us by voting and - of course - by showing up once in a while ;-)

PostDoc Retreat

In lively discussions after the Kick-Off Meeting and the second Career Seminar, the idea of an own PostDoc Retreat arose. Taking time outside the lab for scientific exchange as well as mutual advanced training sessions would be a great opportunity to improve the scientific and social networking among PostDocs. To realize this aim in 2011, we founded the new PostDoc Retreat Group. If you are interested in joining such a retreat, please send your feedback to postdoc-network@dkfz.de. If you are willing to actively participate in the organization, please contact the coordinator of this group Sabrina Heisel, s.heisel@dkfz-heidelberg.de directly.

Career Lunch for PostDocs

For all interested DKFZ scientists (from masters' students to senior PostDocs) there is a "career lunch" every Thursday at 12. A table is reserved in the Casino of the main building, INF 280. The idea is to meet in person, ask questions and exchange information. Depending on your interests, specific topics can be discussed, like how to set up your own professional network, which soft skills to look for, science and society, the latest career seminar, questions and wishes to the career service in general, etc...! It's never too soon (or too late) to **talk about your future** and meet others...



Check the **doodle**, registration is confidential (your name will not be visible to others on the doodle) and can be made on short notice. Also feel free to register to the **career sharepoint**, and to check the **career calendar** for other events.

You can come any time. We especially encourage postdocs to join every **THIRD** Thursday of the month. Next PostDoc lunch: May 19th, 2011.

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CAREER CALENDAR: <http://intracoop/sites/phd-careers/Lists/Calendar>
DISTRIBUTION LIST jobs-for-PhD: Register on intranet <http://listhost/>



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

Write to PostDoc-Network@dkfz.de

Please, forward this newsletter to other PostDocs.

The PDN Committee



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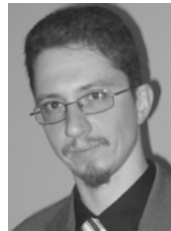
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