



newsletter

PostDoc Network

ISSUE
AUGUST 2017

Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,

We hope you had a great summer. To welcome you back and update you on the latest events – here is the summer PDN newsletter. In this issue we want to get the word out about the Research Lounge – a great new meeting organized by the PDN. This informal platform is meant to help you with your problems in the lab. How? Read more on page 3.

You can also read about recent Welcome and Get-together events organized by Barbara Costa and the career paths of two DKFZ Postdoc alumni – Larissa Carnevalli and Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid. We are also introducing the new faces around; the recipients of the 2016 DKFZ Postdoc Fellowships. We wish them a great time here at DKFZ. You also have the opportunity to learn about the Advanced Training courses offered for DKFZ Postdocs and recent achievements of our Postdocs.

Furthermore, we would like to update you on changes within the PDN. Sreejith Rajasekharan has left the PDN (and DKFZ). We wish him all the best and welcome Mike Fletcher as new deputy speaker. We also welcome Angela Riedel and Ruslan Al-Ali as new PDN committee members. Angela will join our editorial team and be involved in publishing the quarterly Newsletter, starting with this issue! Ruslan joined PDN in July 2017 and works on organizing monthly social events for the Welcome and Get-together group.

*Until the next issue,
Nádia Correia, Angela Riedel and Ulrike Träger*

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PDN elects its new Deputy Speaker

After one year the PDN deputy speaker Sreejith Rajasekharan hands over this position to Mike Fletcher. Sree worked in the Division of Molecular Diagnostics of Oncogenic Infections (F020) and during his time in the PDN he was in charge of the PDN Newsletter and organized many events. We would like to express our gratitude to his dedication in several PDN activities and thank him for the great time we had together. We wish him all the best with his new job and for his future.



Mike Fletcher

We would like to welcome the new deputy speaker Mike Fletcher. He has been a PDN committee member since 2014 and we appreciated his commitment for the PostDoc Network right from the first day he joined us. Mike is a computational biologist in the Division of Molecular Genetics (Prof. Dr. Peter Lichter; B060). He studies epigenetics and gene regulatory mechanisms in the subtypes of adult glioblastoma, an advanced brain cancer. He has been Deputy Speaker since May 2017. Doris Schneller continues to be the Speaker of the PDN and is very much looking forward to work with him and to represent the DKFZ PostDocs together. Mike's comment after the election: "I'm very honored to have been elected by my professional colleagues as the new Deputy Speaker, and I look forward to representing all of the DKFZ's Postdocs and their interests."



Sreejith Rajasekharan

I saw PDN as a platform where I would very easily be able to meet other fellow postdocs and therefore joined the network during my first week at DKFZ. It was, hands down, one of the best decisions I took while at DKFZ. From the very beginning itself, I was part of the PDN core committee and was involved in organising the retreats, the newsletter and the Career Days. Being an active part of the inner circle had its own advantages. I was in close contact with many people from the DKFZ as well as other academic institutions. Before I even realised my professional network started to grow very rapidly. Soon I became the Deputy Speaker of the PDN and also started heading the newsletter team. As the Deputy Speaker I had represented the interests of the postdocs to the Management board and also the opportunity to represent PDN at several different official occasions at DKFZ. In this position I also got to work closely with the Advanced Training and the Career Service. As my professional network grew, so did my friend circle. During my time at the PDN I made many friends who have been very helpful with my next career step. My experiences at the PDN are those which I shall cherish throughout. I very strongly recommend every postdoc to be a part of the PDN.

Research Lounge

Text by Manolo Rodriguez and picture by Magalie Gerald, PDN

Last June we had the fourth edition of our Research Lounge, an event organized by the PDN and addressed to all DKFZ members who, regardless of their position, are willing to spend a pleasant and relaxed time talking about science.

The idea is that, on a monthly basis, several volunteers introduce themselves and/or their laboratories, or just share a particular scientific problem, by giving a short presentation of about 5-10 minutes and with a maximum of 2-3 slides. Following these presentations speakers and audience can interact and, who knows, even start some nice collaborations while having drinks and pizza.



Last June the talks were given by Doris Schneller, postdoctoral researcher of the Division of Signal Transduction and Growth Control, Ranja Andriantsoa, PhD student of the Division of Epigenetics, and Gopal Murugan, PhD student of the Division of B Cell Immunology.

In the PDN we firmly believe that these kind of events that favor the exchange of ideas and points of view are essential for the good scientific health of the DKFZ. Those who may want to participate in the following months just have to send an email to pdn-committee@dkfz.de

Everyone is invited!

SAVE THE DATES

When?

4.10.

9.11.

13.12.

Where? K1/2, DKFZ Mainbuilding

DKFZ PostDoc Retreat 2017 – bringing together expertise and friends

We would like to call your attention to the upcoming **PDN Retreat 2017** which will take place from **October 16th-17th 2017** at the Herz-Jesu Monastery in Neustadt a.d. Weinstraße.

The annual retreat is organized by the DKFZ PostDoc Network for all Postdocs from the DKFZ, NCT and DKTK. It is an excellent opportunity to exchange and discuss ideas, to get to know each other and to profit from interesting talks during the sessions and workshops. This year's line-up of invited speakers comprises Eva-Maria Markutzi and Bodo Brückner (Entrepreneurship), as well as Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid (former DKFZ Postdoc and now Group Leader).



SAVE THE DATE! Registration will open soon at www.dkfz.de/en/postdoc-network/retreat.htm

Your Retreat Organizing Team

When? 16th and 17st October, 2017
Where? Hers-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt
Who? Postdocs from DKFZ, NCT and DKTK

Career Day: Academia

Would you like to know how to boost your academic career by funding, mentorship and industry cooperation? Do you wonder about unconventional career paths in Academia?

If yes, come and join our **Career Day "Academia" on 20th October 2017**. This day will give you the unique opportunity to learn more about Academia from selected talks, workshops and social events.

You will also have the exciting chance to get inspired by our keynote speaker, **Nobel Laureate Stefan W. Hell**.

When: October 20th, 2017

Where: DKFZ, Communication Center

To receive updates on the growing program please join the event on <https://dkfz-connect.de/event>

We are looking forward to meet you at the Career Day!

On behalf of the Career Day Organizing Team



Following Career days 2017

Research & Development Career Day – 8th December, 2017, DKFZ Communication Center.

Welcome and Get-together

Dear PostDocs and friends,



I am writing to give you an update about the Get-together events that took place in the last three months.

In May we had an alternative historical tour of Heidelberg Altstadt given by a professional guide who was dressed up and acted like the daughter of an executioner from the middle ages. We learned a lot of interesting - and sometimes cruel - facts about Heidelberg during that time. All twenty participants enjoyed the tour, which gave us a very unusual look at the city we are living in. Afterwards, we gathered at the restaurant Palmbräugasse in Hauptstraße.

In June we visited the annual festivities of the Handschuhsheim neighborhood: the Hendsemer Kerwe. The Kerwe takes place in the castle (Tiefburg) where some of us tasted one of their specialties: the famous Strawberry Margarita served in big jars with many straws. We tasted typical German food and few of us - the brave ones - finished the evening dancing in the courtyard of the restaurant Alt Hendesse.



For July, a BBQ on the Neckarwiese was scheduled, but, due to uncontrollable circumstances (rain) it was postponed to the beginning of August. Many PostDocs from different departments in the DKFZ joined for this event - a summer must - and we enjoyed a mild summer evening with grilling, drinking beers and chatting.

The Get-together events take place once a month and are open to all PostDocs in Heidelberg who wish to join. The invitations for the events are sent through the mailing list pdn-friends@dkfz.de that includes past and present PostDocs of the DKFZ, but also PostDocs from other institutions and whoever is interested in the life of PostDocs in Heidelberg. If you are not part of it and you wish to join please send an email to b.costa@dkfz.de

Looking forward to see you at one of our next events.

Barbara Costa

DKFZ Postdoc Fellowships 2016

There are many ways to become a Postdoc at DKFZ – one is through the DKFZ Postdoctoral Fellowship program. Through a competitive selection process up to ten early career scientists are recruited for the 2-year program each year. In the last selection round held in 2016, seven new Postdoc Fellows were recruited. PDN is happy to introduce three of the new faces here.

Natasha Anstee obtained her PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne. During her thesis she studied the impact of deregulated apoptosis in hematopoiesis, autoimmunity and acute myeloid leukemia. She joined the **Division of Experimental Hematology (A012)** where she will be investigating the biology of hematopoietic stem cells during homeostasis, inflammation and aging with a specific focus on the selfrenewal ability of these cells.



Asked why she chose Heidelberg, Natasha said: "Coming from Australia, it's easy to feel isolated from the rest of the scientific community and so I was attracted to the DKFZ so that I could immerse myself in the research culture of Europe and expand my international networks. From my visit to the DKFZ last year, I was also keen to join the institute because of the state-of-the-art facilities and the amazing group of scientists in the division I work in."



Paula Codó from Buenos Aires, obtained her PhD from the University of Zürich. Her research was focused on understanding the mechanisms by which the most aggressive form of brain tumors, glioblastoma, evade immune recognition and invade the surrounding healthy tissue, both determinants of the recurrence of these tumors. She joined the laboratory for **Applied Stem Cell Biology (Prof. Hanno Glimm)** at NCT to work on several projects, some dedicated to understand malignant features of cancer cells, such as drivers of metastasis, and some dedicated to target and eliminate cancer stem cells with small molecules.

"Actually, when considering my PhD, DKFZ was already one of my top options! I wanted to join DKFZ because it hosts a large number of research groups doing cutting-edge science (like the one I joined), and you have plenty of networking and collaboration opportunities, connecting groups that range from the fundamental aspects of cancer research to the most applied ones, and that is how I believe real progress in defeating cancer will be done. As a plus, being a person who worked in research in 4 different countries, working in an internationally renowned research center, in the heart of Europe, in the beautiful town of Heidelberg... I really couldn't ask for more!"

Yannick Berker, from Witten, Germany, received his PhD from RWTH Aachen University, where he worked on quantitative positron emission tomography (PET). More specifically, he focused on the combination of PET with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). His contributions revolved around MRI pulse sequences and PET image reconstruction. He joined Prof. Marc Kachelrieß' **"X-Ray Imaging and Computed Tomography" group (E025)** and continue to work on quantitative PET imaging.



There's many reasons why he chose DKFZ: "In fact, I had applied to the DKFZ PhD program before. The most recent reason is that working in Heidelberg offers me and my girlfriend the first opportunity to live together in ten years ;)"

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Larissa S. Carnevalli, PhD - Associate Principal Scientist in the Oncology division at AstraZeneca in Cambridge, UK.



Research background:

"I have been always interested in basic and translational research. I have a background in molecular and cell biology with strong focus on oncology and stem cells.

I have done my PhD at the Federal University of São Paulo in Brazil, my work investigated the role of eIF2a phosphorylation and the integrated stress response (ISR) in epileptic mouse models.

After completing my PhD, I have moved to the USA as a Postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Cancer and Cell Biology, Metabolic Diseases Institute, University of Cincinnati, USA. In the laboratory of Dr. Sara Kozma and Dr. George Thomas, pioneers in the field of PI3K/mTOR/AKT pathways. In their lab, I have contributed to the understanding of this pivotal signalling pathway in metabolic diseases and cancer. I had the chance to interact with scientists from all over the world and deepened my knowledge on metabolism and cancer. This work has led to publications in both fields and interestingly has awakened my interest in stem cell biology.

At this point, I joined the laboratory of Prof. Andreas Trumpp at the Heidelberg Institute for Stem Cell Technologies and Experimental Medicine (HI-STEM) and Division of Stem Cells and Cancer at (DKFZ). My work at Andrea's lab aimed to use knockout and transgenic mouse models to address the role of specific oncogenes in hematopoietic stem cell biology. In this second postdoctoral position, I have learned about hematopoietic stem biology and further improved my understanding of mouse models of disease in a very dynamic and high quality research environment."

What is your current position and what do you like about it?

"My current position is Associate Principal Scientist in the Oncology division at AstraZeneca in Cambridge, UK. AZ is one of the top ten biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world and working for a big pharma has opened a new perspective in my career. At AZ I was able to work with a broad range of functions such as chemistry, safety and regulatory affairs. This position gave me the opportunity to work as a bio scientist in projects from an early drug discovery phase to projects already in the clinic, both very rewarding aspects of delivering therapies to patients from both ends of the discovery process. One of the things I like the most is that very day is a different day in terms of interactions, learnings and tasks. There's always a push to improve skills and understand the how to better apply them to different projects."

What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job?

"In my opinion companies look for two main types of professionals. The ones that fit perfectly a specific job profile and those that have potential to bring innovative ideas to the organization. If you have both that's definitely a plus! My advice is to always be open to new challenges, learn as much as possible about things you are passionate about and you will land a position that suits you whether in academia or industry."

Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid, PhD - group leader at the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics (MPI-IE)



Research background:

"I have always been passionate about fundamental and translational research. In 2005, I received my MSc in Biotechnology from the University of Barcelona (Spain) and the University of Parma (Italy). I then went on to gain my PhD at the Medical Center of Mainz (Germany) under the supervision of Dr. Ernesto Bockamp (2006-2010). Here, I studied the instruction of hematopoietic lineage choices, evolution of transcriptional landscapes and cancer stem cell hierarchies derived from an AML1-ETO mouse model. I moved to the DKFZ in 2011 to take up a postdoc position in the laboratory of Prof. Andreas Trumpp in the Division of Stem Cells and Cancer at DKFZ. This was an excellent time, where over six years we uncovered molecular and functional properties of hematopoietic stem and progenitors cells by combining *cutting-edge* technologies including proteome, DNA methylome and whole-transcriptome analysis at both population and single-cell level from very rare populations, combined with *in vivo* and *in vitro* functional approaches. "

What is your current position and what do you like about it?

"I started as group leader at the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics (MPI-IE) in Freiburg (Germany) in May of this year. Here, I will continue my work on regulation of HSC quiescence. I really enjoy the process of building my group with its own spirit. From the excitement of ordering reagents to start experiments, to the process of interviewing PhD candidates from the Max Planck PhD selection- it has been a fantastic beginning!"

What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job?

"If you aim to get a group leader position, throughout each step of the process you will compete with other scientists that hold excellent CVs- from initial selection to interview stages. Thus, I think that your publication record plays a critical part in getting through the first screening. However, I believe that other skills and features help to get a position, including having a particular scientific expertise that distinguishes you from others (for example in my case: stem cells, OMICs, *in vivo*); having a clear idea of your scientific goals (which should be realistic and well thought out); having experience in supervising students (I was lucky to have a lot of supervisory experience with master-, MD- and PhD-students); finally, being active in the scientific community, including conferences, retreats and meetings. All of these points reflect your passion for your chosen career. I also believe that it is important to connect at the personal level with your potential colleagues. At the end of the day, you will be their colleague. In my case, I knew already after the interview, the MPI-IE would offer plenty of possibilities for doing cool science with state-of-the-art facilities, an excellent PhD program and a critical scientific mass. Importantly, I had a very good feeling about my future colleagues, and this has held true. In just two months I feel very integrated and supported at the MPI-IE. I look forward to doing excellent work here!"

Advance Training/Opportunities for Postdocs

Text by Celina Cziepluch, Advanced training

Several valuable training courses are offered for Postdocs in 2017.

Postdocs may also participate in the Postdoc Qualification Program. For this, participation in the following 2 events is essentially required:

Leadership in Science (Training / 1.5 days **plus** Feedback on Career planning / 0.5 days) and **Good Scientific Practice** (1h interactive information seminar).

For further information, please contact Celina Cziepluch c.cziepluch@dkfz.de

➤ **Short term research visits** funding for Postdocs

DKFZ fosters international collaborations and the acquisition of new research techniques. Along this line, DKFZ offers funding opportunities for short term research visits for Postdocs. Visits may last between 1 and 3 months and should serve a well-defined scientific goal. Participating Postdocs may receive travel costs up to €350.- within Europe and €750.- outside of Europe. Housing may be supported with up to €400.- per month.

To benefit from a short term research visit, Postdocs are requested to apply for an external training in the HCM portal, using the title "**Short term research visit**". A brief and informative description of the purpose of the visit should be given, as well a list of estimated costs to be covered. Department heads/supervisors will be required to supply a brief letter of support. The advanced training board (Weiterbildungsausschuss) will review all applications in their monthly meeting. For further information, please contact Celina Cziepluch c.cziepluch@dkfz.de.

➤ **Train and Gain for Postdocs**

Would you like to have hands-on support for your research project? Would you also like to advance your trainer and leadership skills? Then joining the **Train and Gain Program** might be an option for you.

In the frame of this program you will supervise one of the 60 research technician trainees/Azubi-Biologielaborant and thereby get hands-on support for your project. As a preparation for your role as supervisor, you will be provided with all necessary information as well as the possibility for supportive advice or coaching.

To join the Train and Gain Program, please contact Tatjana Kirchhoff-Muranyi (t.kirchhoff@dkfz.de) or Celina Cziepluch (c.cziepluch@dkfz.de) from advanced training.

Background information: At DKFZ, in total 120 young apprentices are being trained. Of these approx. 60 are trained to become future research technicians. Besides a solid theoretical training, these apprentices receive hands-on training in research labs working under supervision. Thereby apprentices have the opportunity to contribute directly to research projects. Please note that many of our apprentices are proficient in English. In their third year of training, many apprentices have in addition gathered up to 3 months of work experiences in labs across Europe.

➤ Postdoctoral Fellowships at DKFZ 2017

The next selection round of selection for the DKFZ Postdoc Fellowships 2017 is open until 15th of September. Please take a look to the details bellow and spread the word.



LOOKING FOR AN EXCELLENT RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT TO MAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

Apply for a prestigious two-year

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)

dkfz.

GERMAN
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

• • • • •
Research for a Life without Cancer

DKFZ

The DKFZ in *Heidelberg* belongs to the leading Cancer Research Centers worldwide and invites applications for ten two-year Postdoctoral Fellowships. We are seeking highly motivated applicants interested in cancer research to work in one of over 100 DKFZ research divisions and groups. As Germany's largest biomedical research institute, the Center offers *exciting opportunities* for postdocs in basic, computational, epidemiological, and translational cancer research. Located on the biomedical campus of Heidelberg University, in close vicinity to other top research institutions, DKFZ provides an *interdisciplinary working environment* that builds on scientific exchange and excellence.

YOU@DKFZ

- Join our large international community of postdoctoral researchers
- Make use of state-of-the-art research facilities and infrastructure
- Full access to all services of the DKFZ International Postdoc Program
- Manage your professional development with tailored courses and career support
- Share ideas and meet colleagues in the active DKFZ Postdoc Network

Application

Submit your complete application (in English) as a PDF file to: postdoc@dkfz.de. Deadline: *September 15, 2017*

The application document should comprise your curriculum vitae, a one-page statement of research interests, a copy of latest degree certificate and two letters of recommendation.

Further information and eligibility criteria: www.dkfz.de/postdoc

Achievements by Postdocs

We are happy to announce new publications of postdocs and awards, fellowships and stipends given to them.

New Publications

Dr. Nina Cabezas- Wallscheid (Formerly A010)

Cabezas-Wallscheid N, Buettner F, Sommerkamp P, Klimmeck D, Ladel L, Thalheimer FB, Pastor-Flores D, Roma LP, Renders S, Zeisberger P, Przybylla A, Schonberger K, Scognamiglio R, Altamura S, Florian CM, Fawaz M, Vonficht D, Tesio M, Collier P, Pavlinic D et al. (2017) Vitamin A-Retinoic Acid Signaling Regulates Hematopoietic Stem Cell Dormancy. Cell 169: 807-823 e19

Dr. Christian Breunig (Formerly B050)

Breunig C, Pahl J, Kublbeck M, Miller M, Antonelli D, Erdem N, Wirth C, Will R, Bott A, Cerwenka A, Wiemann S (2017) MicroRNA-519a-3p mediates apoptosis resistance in breast cancer cells and their escape from recognition by natural killer cells. Cell Death Dis 8: e2973

New Awards and Grants

Dr. Josephine Bageritz (B110)

Josephine was granted a second year postdoctoral funding via the Fritz Thyssen fellowship to proceed with her postdoctoral studies from May 2017 until April 2018.

Dr. Samuel Pena-Llopis (G012)

Samuel received a grant from DFG (German Research Foundation) entitled: Pathogenic role and therapeutic targeting of BAP1 loss in tumor metastasis (PE 2696/1-1) and funded with 228,600€, including the salary for 3 years of a PhD student. He is currently looking for candidates!

In the next newsletter we will again promote achievements by DKFZ & DKTK Postdocs. Name us your publications, awards, and grants!

Send your information to: n.correia@dkfz.de or a.riedel@dkfz.de

Vacancies at PDN

We are always happy to welcome new Postdocs to PDN. If you would like to actively participate and join the committee, we are looking for people interested in helping the **Design and Homepage Team, Newsletter Team, Retreat and Career Seminars Organizing Committees**. If you would like to develop your networking, communication, management and creative skills, these positions are just right for you. Or if you have an idea that PDN could help with, ask us!

Send us an email at pdn-committee@dkfz.de.

PDN: From Postdocs for Postdocs

Making more of your time as a Postdoc at DKFZ

Postdoc survey 2017

Fellow postdocs, you now have the fantastic opportunity of reflect the *status quo* and needs of the DKFZ Postdocs through this anonymous survey about the DKFZ International Postdoc Program. **For the Postdoc community at DKFZ (including NCT and DKTK) and your own postdoctoral experience it is very important that all Postdocs participate.**

Your answers and feedback are very much appreciated and will be directly used to evaluate existing activities and to shape the future support network for all Postdocs at the institute. **Thank you for taking a few minutes of your time to complete the survey! Submit your answers until 05.09.2017.**

Futher questions about it, please contact Dr. Philipp Gebhardt from the DKFZ Postdoc Program p.gebhardt@dkfz.de

Last but not least, keep an eye on these oportunities/events :

Save the Dates:

PostDoc Retreat 2017 – 16th and 17st October, 2017 at Herz-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt.

Academia Career Day – 20th October, 2017, DKFZ Communication Center.

Research & Development Career Day – 8th December, 2017, DKFZ Communication Center.

Postdoc survey 2017 – submit your answers until 05.09.2017.

Running Meetup – Every Thursdays at 18:00. Meeting point: DKFZ Main Building foyer (contact Stefan Kallenberger s.kallenberger@dkfz.de)

Next PDN meetings – 7th September, 2017, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)
21st September, 2017, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)

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