



Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,

While everyone is looking forward to enjoying the summer, we wanted to update you on the latest news from the PDN. In this issue of the PDN Newsletter you can read about the very successful PostDoc Retreat which took place on 5th-6th November 2015; Career Day: Academia which took place on 4th December 2015; recent Welcome and Get-together events organized by Barbara Costa and the DKFZ running team at the 2016 Heidelberg Half Marathon. You also have the opportunity to learn about recent achievements of our Postdocs.

In this brief spring issue we would like to thank Christian Breunig, Marina Laplana and Yi Sun for their contributions and services to the PDN. We wish them the very best as they leave DKFZ to move on with their careers. Christian served as the deputy speaker of PDN for the last two years and was responsible for organizing the monthly Lunch Talk Series. He was also part of the PDN Newsletter team and together with Karolin Willmund organized the campaign "DKFZ for Refugees" to support refugees in Heidelberg. He is succeeded by Sreejith Rajasekharan as the deputy speaker. Marina dealt with the PDN accounts and the Postdoc survey. Antje Reuter currently takes care of the PDN accounts and the Postdoc survey is now analyzed by Ann-Christin Gaupel. Yi was part of the PDN Newsletter team.

We then would like to welcome Danny Kägebein, Doris Schneller, Katarina Cuk and Kai Hofmann as our new committee members. Danny is now in charge of organizing the monthly Lunch Talk Series. Doris together with Sreejith Rajasekharan took over the responsibility of the Newsletter from Karolin and Christian. Both are now the Editors-in-chief of the PDN Newsletter. Katarina is involved in taking care of the PDN Alumni records and the PDN homepage. Kai is part of the PostDoc Retreat Organizing committee.

Until the next issue,
Sreejith Rajasekharan and Doris Schneller

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PDN elects its new Deputy Speaker

After 2 years the PDN deputy speaker Christian Breunig hands over this position to Sreejith Rajasekharan. Christian worked in the Department of Molecular Genome Analysis (B050) and during his time in the PDN he organized many events and started new project such as the lunch talk series. 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.

We are very happy to have Sreejith Rajasekharan joining the speaker's team. He has been a PDN committee member since June 2015 and we appreciate his commitment for the PostDoc Network right from the first day when he joined us. Sree was recruited as a PostDoc to the DKFZ through the prestigious Dkfz PostDoctoral Fellowship Program. He is a molecular biologist, working in the Division of Molecular Diagnostics of Oncogenic Infections (F020) since June 2015. His research focus is in the field of cancer genomics. He presently works on the Characterization of Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN) samples to establish a correlation between APOBEC3 expression, the appearance of mutational signatures and HPV status. Kristin Rattay continues to be the Speaker of the PDN and is very much looking forward working together with him and to represent the Dkfz PostDocs together.



Sreejith Rajasekharan



Christian Breunig

My intention to join the PostDoc Network (PDN) three years ago was to get in contact with other postdocs at DKFZ. I found out quickly that the PDN is an excellent community where everyone is very welcome. Right from the beginning, I got involved in different projects like organizing the postdoc retreat, the PDN Facebook page, postdoc newsletter etc. During projects like DKFZ Career Days, the Lunch Talk series and the DKFZ Asylkreis I was in close contact with many people from the DKFZ as well as other academic institutions and industry. Being part of these projects was great fun. The PDN gives you the platform where you can realize your ideas. For the last two years, I was the Deputy Speaker of the PDN. In this position you represent the postdoc needs towards the management board and you closely work together with the Advanced Training and the Career Service to improve trainings and career perspective events. In addition, I had the opportunity to present the PDN at different occasions like Career Days or DKFZ Postdoctoral fellowship program selection rounds. There, you get in contact with interesting people from academia and industry and new DKFZ postdocs. During my time at the PDN I made many friends and expanded my network, which were helpful for my next career step. I recommend every postdoc to be part of the PDN. Thank you for this great experience.

Save the Dates:

PostDoc Retreat 2016 – 20th and 21st October, 2016 at Herz-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt.

Clinical Research Career Day – 23rd September, 2016, DKFZ Communication Center.

Project Management Career Day – 2nd December, 2016, DKFZ Communication Center.

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

Next PDN meeting – 7th July, 2016, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)
21st July, 2016, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)

DKFZ PostDoc Retreat 2015 – bringing together expertise and friends



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In November 2015, the DKFZ PostDoc Network (Organizing Team: Kristin Rattay, Marina Laplana, Antje Reuter, Ann-Christin Gaupel, Heiko Weyd, Sreejith Rajasekharan, Yi Sun and Eva Nievergall) organized the annual retreat for PostDocs at the Naturfreundehaus in Bruchsal. We spent 2 exciting days to hear about PostDocs' (DKFZ, NCT and DKT) ideas, their work (and their problems) in talks and poster sessions, exchanged views on work and life balance and got together over a beer at a great BBQ. The winter barbecue and the party in the evening were used by the participants to talk about the presentations, their projects and PostDocs' life in Heidelberg in general.

Invited speakers provided first hand information on successful networking for job hunting and insights into selection criteria of funding committees. We thank Aidan Budd and Susan Kentner for their useful tips on how to network efficiently and how to find the right funding program suitable for our current projects.

For the first time we also offered a Matched Expertise Exchange with the aim of matching PostDocs that can complement their expertise for their current or future projects. The aim was to foster intra-institutional collaboration among PostDocs of different research topics.

In a round table discussion we offered to give feedback on 'life as a PostDoc at the DKFZ' and many of you asked for more interaction between divisions and groups. This led to a new interaction platform called 'Research Lounge – Let's talk science' which we are currently establishing – more information coming soon.

We would like to thank all participants for their active support and making the PostDoc Retreat 2015 a full success! We hope to see many of you again this year on our **PostDoc Retreat 2016 which will be held in Herz-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt on the 20th and 21st of October**. Check out our homepage for latest updates concerning the upcoming Retreat: <http://www.dkfz.de/en/postdoc-network/retreat.html>.

Your Retreat Organizing Team

PostDoc Retreat 2016

When? 20th and 21st October, 2016

Where? Hers-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt

Who? Postdocs from DKFZ, NCT and DKT

What? Scientific Exchange, Get-together, Networking, Invited Speakers

Career Day: Academia 2015



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More than 200 participants attended the Career Day: Academia supported by the DKFZ PostDoc Network (PDN), Graduate School and DKFZ Advance Training and Career Service on December 4th 2015. Most of them were from the Dkfz, followed by the University of Heidelberg, the EMBL and the NCT. We were happy to welcome many participants coming from Freiburg, Munich and Braunschweig.

The Career day started with a welcome address by Prof. Boutros and a general introduction to possibilities in Academia. Three talk sessions, two round table discussion sessions and a round of workshops on three different topics provided a deep insight into the possible paths in academia from the point of view of Professors, Senior and Junior Division Heads, Group leaders and Managers of core facilities.

Speakers sheared their experiences, describing their personal career path, their professional role and daily tasks and gave tips on how to choose the "right" path and how to succeed in it. **The interactive round-table discussions created a chance to ask questions in smaller groups and to exchange opinions and network with speakers and peers from different institutes.** The Career Day ended with a small get-together.

The organizing committee is overwhelmed by the high number of attendees and the positive feedback they received. They would like to thank everyone who made this Career Day: Academia such a great success and in particular the attendees for their active participation.

Organizing Committee, Career Day: Academia 2015

Welcome and Get-together



© PDN, Barbara Costa



© PDN, Barbara Costa

Dear PostDocs and friends,

It is a pleasure for me to update you on the social events that I am organizing every month on behalf of the PDN committee. These social events are meant to be an informal get-together where PostDocs from different cultures, scientific backgrounds and

institutions in Heidelberg can meet to chat, establish new friendships and collaborations.

In October we explored Italian cuisine at the restaurant La Locanda in Handschusheim. This time not only PostDocs from DKFZ, NCT and ZMBH were present but also from BioMedX. We therefore had the possibility to meet new people coming from a new scientific working environment present here in the Neuenheimer Feld.

The PostDoc get-together in November took place at the Heidelberger Christmas Market. Also this time many PostDocs from different working environments and from different countries joined to celebrate together the German tradition of drinking Glühwein!

In December we had a break but in January we came back. Although the temperature was below zero, this was not enough to prevent many brave PostDocs to come to the Schnitzelhaus Alte Münz in the Altstadt and join a cozy and warm atmosphere. We could choose our favorite Schnitzel from a list of one hundred!

For the get-together of February we went to play bowling at Firebowl in Heidelberg. It was a lot of fun to compete for the best player. And then in March we officially opened the BBQ season! We set up a grill at the casino of the DKFZ main building and we could enjoy delicious meat while drinking and chatting.

Are you curious to join one of our next events? Subscribe to PDN@dkfz.de. You will receive once a month an invitation to the get-together.

If you are a regular attendant of the PostDoc events, please spread the word among new PostDocs in your department. We are always happy to welcome new people at our events; especially PostDocs recently arrived in town.

Hope to see many of you at our next get-together!

Barbara Costa

DKFZ at Heidelberg Half Marathon

On Sunday, April 24th, 34 courageous runners from DKFZ took part in the famous Heidelberg half marathon, which can be characterized as being popular and challenging. Besides attractive scenery it offered a demanding track with large differences in elevation. Starting in the old town it went through Neuenheim to the Philosophenweg, towards Ziegelhausen, and via the castle back to the Universitätsplatz. Moreover, the weather contributed to the experience, chilly temperatures at the start, sun, rain and snow included. It can be acknowledged that we had exceptionally strong runners in our team. The fastest three male runners (Christoph Frank, Florian Köhler, Gideon Zipprich) came in 16th place out of 308 teams, the fastest three female runners (Almut Lütge, Lisa Buchauer, Mechthild Lütge) even finished 4th place out of 82 teams. Congratulations to all finishers and thanks a lot for our supporters cheering for us at the track.

Stefan Kallenberger



© Stefan Kallenberger

Advance Training for Postdocs - SAVE THE DATE!

Several valuable training courses (as listed below) are offered for Postdocs in 2016 and 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.

Project Management in Action: 7th and 8th October, 2016

Recap theoretic essentials /experience efficient application of project management tools in scientific collaborations / Understand and avoid pitfalls in public-private partnerships / foresee and manage group dynamics / communicate efficiently with all stakeholders.

Leadership in Science: 8th and 9th November, 2016

Obligatory for participants of the DKFZ Postdoc Qualification Program (PQP)

Develop understanding, skills and confidence in key areas of group dynamics and leadership. This will enhance overall effectiveness and maximize success for future careers.

Career development planning is initiated.

Preparing for Leadership: 10th and 11th November, 2016

Communication models / difference between perception and interpretation / emotional dynamics in communication / feedback and criticism, art of asking questions; forms of active listening; constructive criticism / communication in hierarchical structures / managing conflicts / reflection and coaching of difficult situations based on the participants' experiences (method of 'peer-supervising'), communication dynamics in groups.

Hands-on Project Management: September 2016 (training) and 2nd December, 2016 (on-site practice)

Learn project management hands-on and organize the **Project Management Career Day** at DKFZ, taking place on Dec 2nd 2016.

Coming up 2017:	Workshops on demand / planned for 2017:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grand Writing – hands on training (2 days)• Good Scientific Practice (information seminar, obligatory for all Postdocs)• Executing Leadership 1 and 2• Negotiation 1 and 2• Postdoc Perspectives (Habilitation, Career planning etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story telling in science - from planning to delivery• Writing scientific English

Achievements by Postdocs

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

New Publications

Dr. Julia Bode (V077)

Breckwoldt MO, Bode J, Kurz FT, Hoffmann A, Ochs K, Ott M, Deumelandt K, Krüwel T, Schwarz D, Fischer M, Helluy X, Milford D, Kirschbaum K, Solecki G, Chiblak S, Abdollahi A, Winkler F, Wick W, Platten M, Heiland S, Bendszus M, Tews B. (2016) Correlated magnetic resonance imaging and ultramicroscopy (MR-UM) is a tool kit to assess the dynamics of glioma angiogenesis. *Elife*. pii: e11712. doi: 10.7554/eLife.11712

Dr. Constantinos Demetriades (B140)

Demetriades C*, Plescher M, Teleman AA*. (2016) Lysosomal recruitment of TSC2 is a universal response to cellular stress. *Nat Commun.* 7:10662. doi: 10.1038/ncomms10662.

* Co-corresponding authors

Dr. Sonam Dhamija (B150)

Dhamija S, Diederichs S. (2016) From junk to master regulators of invasion: lncRNA functions in migration, EMT and metastasis. *Int J Cancer.* doi: 10.1002/ijc.30039. [Epub ahead of print]

Dr. Cläre von Neubeck (DKTK/L315)

Linge A, Lock S, Gudziol V, Nowak A, Lohaus F, von Neubeck C, Jutz M, Abdollahi A, Debus J, Tinhofer I, Budach V, Sak A, Stuschke M, Balermpas P, Rodel C, Avlar M, Grosu AL, Bayer C, Belka C, Pigorsch S, Combs SE, Welz S, Zips D, Buchholz F, Aust DE, Baretton GB, Thames H, Dubrovska A, Alsner J, Overgaard J, Baumann M, Krause M. (2016) Low CSC marker expression and low hypoxia identify good prognosis subgroups in HPV(-)HNSCC after postoperative radiochemotherapy: a multicenter study of the DKTK-ROG. *Clin Cancer Res.* pii: clincanres.1990.2015. PMID: 26755529.

Dr. Kristin Rattay (D090)

Brennecke P*, Reyes A*, Pinto S*, Rattay K*, Nguyen M, Kuchler R, Huber W+, Kyewski B+, Steinmetz LM+. (2015) Single-cell transcriptome analysis reveals coordinated ectopic gene-expression patterns in medullary thymic epithelial cells. *Nat Immunol.* 16(9):933-41. doi: 10.1038/ni.3246.

* These authors contributed equally to this work.

+ These authors jointly directed this work.

Rattay K, Meyer HV, Herrmann C, Brors B, Kyewski B. (2016) Evolutionary conserved gene co-expression drives generation of self-antigen diversity in medullary thymic epithelial cells. *J Autoimmun.* 67:65-75. doi: 10.1016/j.jaut.2015.10.001.

New Awards and Grants

Dr. Diana Braunholz and Sandra Liebs (DKTK Berlin)

Diana Braunholz, Sandra Liebs and Evelyn Kidess-Sigal from the two collaborating groups of PD Dr. Ingeborg Tinhofer-Keilholz (Radiation Biology Laboratory) and Prof. Dr. Ulrich Keilholz (Charité Comprehensive Cancer Center) obtained a grant from the Berliner Krebsgesellschaft for the project "Liquid Biopsy - potential of circulating cell free DNA and circulating tumor cells in representing the mutation profile of metastasis"(1 year project).

Dr. Sonam Dhamija (B150)

Sonam Dhamija received a CellNetworks Postdoc position from CellNetworks excellence cluster for working in the group of Dr. Diederichs at DKFZ on a project titled: "Role of long non-coding RNAs in epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and tumor metastasis" (two year contract including salary and research costs, plus money for travelling, meetings and special demands).

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

Send your information to: s.rajasekharan@dkfz.de or d.schneller@dkfz.de

Vacancies at PDN

We are always happy to welcome new Postdocs to PDN. If you would like to actively participate and be a part of the core committee, we are looking for members interested in joining 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.

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

PDN: From Postdocs for Postdocs

Making more of your time as a Postdoc at DKFZ

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