



# newsletter

PostDoc Network

ISSUE  
May 2017

*Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,*

*While the weather keeps us waiting for spring, our new newsletter does not! In this spring issue we look back at the successful Science March that took place in Heidelberg, and around the world, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. More than 1800 people took to the street in our town to protest for freedom of science! In a faster pace several PostDocs took to the street in the Heidelberg Half-Marathon on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Read a roundup of the event by one of the runners, Stefan Kallenberger.*

*You can also read about the BioContact which took place in April 2017; recent Welcome and Get-together events organized by Barbara Costa and the career paths of two DKFZ Postdoc alumni – Melanie Barra and Anne Forde. You also have the opportunity to learn about the Advanced Training courses offered for the DKFZ Postdocs, including how to get your own Azubi and recent achievements of our Postdocs.*

*Furthermore, we would like to welcome Nádia Correia and Johannes Werner as new PDN committee members. Nádia will join our editorial team and be involved in publishing the quarterly Newsletter, starting with this issue! Johannes will help with the organization of the BioMed X lunch talk series.*

*Until the next issue,  
Nádia Correia, Thais Moraes and Ulrike Träger*

## **In this issue:**

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Text by Ulrike Träger, pictures by Jona Krämer

Coinciding with this year's Earth Day, scientists and science-supporters took to the street on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. More than 600 "March for Science" events were held worldwide. Why? Because populist tendencies worldwide have deemed "alternative facts" equal to evidence-based scientific facts. March for Science was therefore intended as a platform to demonstrate for the freedom of science and "a fact-based discourse as the foundation of a free, democratic society" to quote the organizers of March for Science Germany.

In Germany demonstrations, backed by most scientific institutions (you may remember the Email Prof. Baumann send to encouraging everyone to take part) took place in 22 cities. The biggest, with 11.000 participants, was in Berlin; while 67 people took part in the smallest event on Helgoland. The organizers for the march in Heidelberg anticipated around 1000 participants. In the end 1800 people showed their support for science in our city.



Warming up the crowd at Friedrich-Ebert-Platz the DKFZ-PhD student band "The Wildtypes" played a set before DKFZs very own science slammer Lorenz Adlung took the stage for a well-received performance. The demonstration then took the crowd through the Hauptstrasse to the University Square, where 13 speakers including the dean of the Heidelberg University Prof. Eitel, politician Theresia Bauer, vice-president of the KIT Prof. Kraft and DKFZs own Trumpp (Prof. Andreas Trumpp from HI-STEM) made passionate speeches defending the freedom of scientific research and explaining why funding and supporting research is so important. I personally, specifically enjoyed the statement of student Nicole Colaianne, who saying she is neither a politician nor has a PhD still believes science should have everyone's support, since we as a society can only progress with scientific findings and science based policy.

The worldwide protest has sparked a lot of news coverage and (hopefully) started a conversation. Not just between scientists but also with the public, which sometimes sees scientist as their own little elite group that they have nothing in common with. Hopefully March for Science could convey a new image of scientists and will help shape the way scientist communicate with the public. Something we - as scientists - should engage more in. It is needed, now more than ever. Only by informing the public about science in an open conversation, can we as a society oppose populists trying to spread "fake news" and keep up the momentum from these protests.



## Fast PostDocs: Heidelberg Halfmarathon

Text and pictures by Stefan Kallenberger



On Sunday, the 30th of April, more than 30 courageous runners from DKFZ took part in this year's Heidelberg half marathon, which is well known for its challenging track and panoramic views. Starting close to the university place, the track went over the old bridge, through Neuenheim to the Philosophenweg towards Ziegelhausen, and via the castle back to the university square.

A total altitude difference of more than 400 meters makes this half marathon one of the most demanding running events. Fortunately, sunny weather and numerous visitors at the track that were cheering the 3500 participants on compensated for the long distance. Besides official aid stations, several residents of Neuenheim, Ziegelhausen and Schlierbach offered drinks and sweets to the runners.

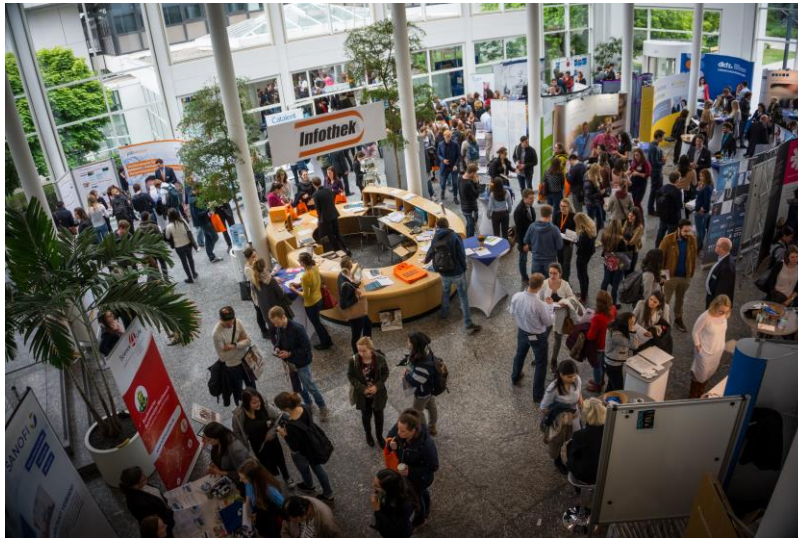
This year, the DKFZ runners Lorena Salgueiro, Laura Llaó and Isabel Poschke deserve special recognition as they won the third price in the women's team competition. To my knowledge, this was the first time a DKFZ team won a price at the Heidelberg half marathon. Congratulations to all finishers and many thanks to our supporters cheering us on at the track!





## Job fair: BioContact 2017

Text and pictures by the BioContact e.V. Team



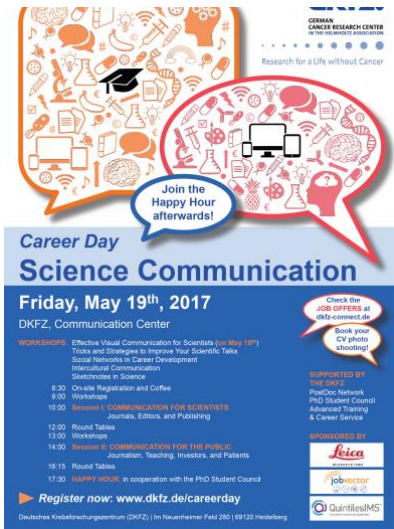
This year's job fair **CONTACT** took place on 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 in the Communication Center of the DKFZ. More than 1400 visitors attended one of the biggest life science job fairs in the Rhein-Neckar-area to expand their professional network with more than 30 exhibitors from industry and other institutions. Many companies took the opportunity to present the professional prospects they offer to interested students, graduates and technicians in one of the company talks. Additionally, applicants could increase their chances for a successful job hunt by learning valuable skills in one of the workshops that were offered during the whole day and also in preparation to the job fair.

The team of **BioContact e.V.** would like to say "Thank you" to all visitors, exhibitors and the supporters from the DKFZ who, all together, made this event possible!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **CONTACT2018!**



## Upcoming Career Day: Science Communication - May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017



If you are interested in Science communication and want to hear more about careers options in this area, join the **DKFZ Career Day on Science Communication** on the **19<sup>th</sup> of May**.

It will be a unique opportunity to learn more about science communication in general, to do networking and explore the possible career paths in this field.

We will have several talks and workshops, always including interesting discussions. In addition, you can book your slot to take a professional picture!

Check the program and register!

<http://www.dkfz.de/en/career-service/scicomcareerday2017.html>

### Next Career Days at DKFZ 2017

**Academia** - 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

**Research and Development** - 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

### PostDoc Retreat 2017

**When?** 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of October

**Where?** Hers-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt

**Who?** Postdocs from DKFZ, NCT and DTKK

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

## Welcome and Get-together

By Barbara Costa

Dear Postdocs,

My name is Barbara Costa and, on the behalf of the PDN committee, I organize a get-together with the aim of socializing and networking in a relaxed and fun atmosphere once a month. Usually the events take place on weekdays after work and most of the time we have dinner in different restaurants in Heidelberg.

In February for instance we had dinner at the Turkish restaurant Alte Gundtei while in March we tried the Thai cuisine at the restaurant Bay Jok. Both times the food was delicious and we had a nice time.



But our events are not only about eating, drinking and chatting; therefore in January we went to the Ice Halle in Wiesloch. It was a really nice evening. A lot of people joined, some of them were skilled ice-skaters while others had never been on ice before and tried their best to learn how to slide smoothly without falling!

For our get-together in April we had two special guests: Barbara Janssens, Career Manager at the Career Service Department of the DKFZ and Philipp Gebhardt, who has recently joined the DKFZ in order to build up and manage the DKFZ Postdoc Program. To encourage and facilitate the communication between people at this event, we had a standing buffet dinner at the Italian restaurant

Carosello with a small socializing game. The food was excellent but the company even more so!

The next get-together will take place on Wednesday 17th May and it will be a guided historical tour through Heidelberg the old town followed by a dinner. Everyone is welcome to join!

The invitations for the events are send through the mailing list [pdn-friends@dkfz.de](mailto:pdn-friends@dkfz.de) that includes past and present post docs of DKFZ but also post docs from other institutions and whoever is interested about life of post docs in Heidelberg. If you are not part of it and you wish to join please send an email to [b.costa@dkfz.de](mailto:b.costa@dkfz.de)



## Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

### Melanie Barra - Clinical research associate (CRA)



Melanie Barra

#### Research background:

My background is in basic research. I got my Master's degree in Molecular Life Science from the University of Lübeck, Germany. From 2011 to 2014 I worked on my PhD thesis in the field of regulatory T cell research at DKFZ.

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

I currently work as a clinical research associate (CRA) at a large international contract research organization (CRO) with more than 18.500 employees worldwide. CROs are contracted by pharmaceutical companies to conduct clinical trials for them. As a CRA, you are in close contact with both the clinical sites that treat the patients and the pharmaceutical company. The CRA needs to make sure that the trial is conducted according to the trial protocol, ensuring patient safety and data integrity. What I like most about my job is the diversity of the day to day work. I have lots of different tasks and I travel often to the clinical sites all across Germany.

#### What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job as Clinical research associate?

All trial documents and communications are in English, therefore good English skills are a must. Experience in the field of cancer research is well liked due to a large number of trials in this field. As you will need to look through hospital patient charts, to find any protocol deviations, it is helpful if you like to pay attention to detail and to decipher doctor's handwriting ; ) Also previous experience with clinical trials and good clinical practice (GCP) is a plus but not a must. To gain experience I took a 4 month clinical research course that taught me the basics of clinical trials and GCP.

#### What is your tip for DKFZ Postdocs that are interested in a similar job?

It can be difficult to enter at the CRA level right away. Due to the clinical research course I took, I was able to enter on a fast-track program. Some CROs and pharmaceutical companies offer programs to develop you into a CRA without previous knowledge. Jobs as research assistant or a remote site monitor are entry level positions. Use your contacts. Try to talk to people in the field via professional networks or at job fairs and find out as much as you can before writing your application.

### Anne Forde - Postdoc careers adviser at the University of Cambridge, UK



Anne Forde

#### Research background:

Following my undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Portsmouth, UK, I did my PhD on the role of specific autoantibodies in inflammatory diseases at the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland, finishing in 1996. Using classic protein chemistry techniques and patient samples for my doctoral work, I set up screening and characterization techniques for autoantibodies in a range of chronic and acute human inflammatory disease. Although my PI was a scientist, our research group was based in a clinical immunology diagnostic hospital lab which offered an interesting human dimension. In fact, while I was looking for a postdoc abroad, I did a one year job as a biomedical scientist in same lab running a suite of routine diagnostic tests for immunological diseases. However, I was keen to get more fundamental immunology research experience, coupled with molecular biology lab skills which seemed to be the requirement in every job description at the time.

After hearing inspiring conference talk on mechanism of immune tolerance by Bernd Arnold, a PI in the former Tumor Immunology Division at the DKFZ, I approached Bernd about working in his lab after his talk. Later that year he got in touch to say that he had funding for a 2 year postdoc. Visiting the Institute and Heidelberg and, most of all, Bernd and his group members convinced me that this was an exciting opportunity, though I must admit I was daunted by how much I had to learn. In his group, which I ended up staying in for nearly 5 years, I got to work on some fantastic projects including producing inducible knock-in mice and learning some state of the art molecular and in vivo techniques from my highly skilled colleagues. Our research group and wider department – molecular immunology - had an energetic atmosphere and we had robust weekly research seminars, many guest talks and annual retreats. The support the core staff offered made a real difference to the ambition of the projects I could do.

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

Well, I've had a few different positions since I left research. The first was to work as writer for the online careers magazine ScienceCareers reporting from Germany (where I was initially still postdoccing part-time) on career issues for researchers. I really liked interviewing people and quickly having a tangible piece of work to show for my efforts – which contrasts sharply to the long term investment research requires. This led to me being offered an editor role for the same magazine but based in their European headquarters in Cambridge, UK. As an editor, I was still researching and writing articles but also commissioning and editing other people's work. After doing this for about 2 years, I moved to the University of Cambridge Careers Service as a careers adviser where I set up a careers program for life science postdocs.

This job combines a lot of what I liked about my writing role: coming up with ideas of important career topics to cover, networking, building trust with people, offering help and ideas to bring researchers' career forward. But the careers adviser role offers me the opportunity to build longer relationships with the postdocs I support and help them in real time. It's so rewarding to see people find their way in the difficult terrain of careers following PhD/postdocs, whether they chose to stay in academia or go outside. I also really enjoy contacted with my colleagues at the Careers Service, senior academics and support staff in the University as it feels like a team effort. It's also great to meet outside employers from a wide range of organizations and acquiring insights the many roles available. To really enjoy this role - and be good at it - you have to have a genuine interest in people and what makes them tick.

**What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job as Market Access Manager?**

I've leveraged lots of knowledge and skills gained in my research career. My knowledge of academia and the stresses and strains of a research career have been invaluable. Being able to give clear and enthusiastic presentations, good written communication skills, diplomacy skills, organization skills, information gathering (aka 'research') skills and analytical skills. Sometimes, I even use my subject specific knowledge as postdocs love to tell me about their research areas and appreciate that I usually understand what they are talking about.

**What is your tip for DKFZ Postdocs that are interested in a similar job?**

Get involved in organizing career events and helping postdocs in the Institute. Join the PostDoc Network! Mentor PhD students and others you are less experienced than you, show you are interested in other people and enjoying supporting them. Importantly, it will help you decide if this is something you could imagine doing as a job. You can contact me on DKFZ Connect.



## Advanced Training for Postdocs

Post Doc Advanced Training Offers especially for Post Doc from May – July 2017; all on campus, here in Heidelberg.

### Training opportunities

#### May to July 2017 - all in Heidelberg campus

##### **\*CA: Stärken/Schwächen - Welcher Job passt wirklich zu mir? (Mini-Workshop)**

11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 - Trainer: Saulér

##### **\*Tierversuche - Antragstellung beim Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe**

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 – Trainer: Schorpp-Kistner

##### **Leadership in Science 2017**

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 – Trainers: Mertens/ Schiller

(Please be aware that an obligatory 0,5 day follow-up session is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> November)

##### **\*FELASA: Tierexperimentelle Arbeiten - Einführungskurs (Kategorie B)**

17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 – Trainer: Schenkel

##### **Executing Leadership 2**

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 – Trainer: Gebhardt

(Prerequisite for participation: Completed course Executing Leadership 1 or proven similar training experiences)

##### **Communication in Projects**

**On demand**, so please register - Trainer: Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani

##### **Negotiation 1**

This course is scheduled for autumn 2017 - Trainer: Gebhardt

\*In German only

For further information and support please contact the Advanced Training or the Career Service.

## Train and Gain for Postdocs

DKFZ offers the possibility for Postdocs to get involved in supervising and training technician trainees/Azubi-Biologielaborant. A trainee will work directly under your supervision and **on your project**. This allows you to expand and prove **your leadership capacities** hands-on and at the same time boost your project. Trainees stay for up to 1 year with a given supervisor. Also shared supervision within a group is possible.

If you are interested, please contact **Tatjana Kirchhoff** [t.kirchhoff@dkfz.de](mailto:t.kirchhoff@dkfz.de).

## Achievements by Postdocs

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

### ***New publications***

#### **Dr. Soulafa Mamlouk (DKTK Partner site Berlin)**

Soulafa Mamlouk, Liam Harold Childs, Daniela Aust, Daniel Heim, Friederike Melching, Cristiano Oliveira, Thomas Wolf, Pawel Durek, Dirk Schumacher, Hendrik Bläker, Moritz von Winterfeld, Bastian Gastl, Kerstin Möhr, Andrea Menne, Silke Zeugner, Torben Redmer, Dido Lenze, Sascha Tierling, Markus Möbs, Wilko Weichert, Gunnar Folprecht, Eric Blanc, Dieter Beule, Reinhold Schäfer, Markus Morkel, Frederick Klauschen, Ulf Leser & Christine Sers. **DNA copy number changes define spatial patterns of heterogeneity in colorectal cancer.** Nature Communications 8, 14093 (2017). doi:10.1038/ncomms14093

#### **Dr. Yan Zhang (C070)**

Yan Zhang, Rory Wilson, Jonathan Heiss, Lutz P. Breitling, Kai-Uwe Saum, Ben Schöttker, Bernd Holleczeck, Melanie Waldenberger, Annette Peters & Hermann Brenner. **DNA methylation signatures in peripheral blood strongly predict all-cause mortality.** Nature Communications 8, 14617 (2017), DOI: 10.1038/ncomms14617

#### **Dr. Stefan Pusch (G380) - part of a Bayer joint project**

Pusch S, Krausert S, Fischer V, Balss J, Ott M, Schrimpf D, Capper D, Sahm F, Eisel J, Beck A, Jugold M, Eichwald V, Kaulfuss S, Pankin O, Rehwinkel H, Zimmermann K, Hillig RC, Guenther J, Toschi L, Neuhaus R, Haegebart A, Hess-Stumpp H, Bauser M, Wick W, Unterberg A, Herold-Mende C, Platten M, von Deimling A. **Pan-IDH1 mutant inhibitor BAY 1436032 effectively treats IDH1 mutant astrocytoma in vivo.** Acta Neuropathologica. 2017 Apr;133(4):629-644. doi: 10.1007/s00401-017-1677-y. Epub 2017 Jan 25. PMID: 28124097

#### **Dr. Lena Herbst (G330) – part of a Bayer joint project**

Chaturvedi A\*, Herbst L\*, Pusch S, Klett L, Goparaju R, Stichel D, Kaulfuss S, Pankin O, Zimmermann K, Toschi L, Neuhaus R, Haegebart A, Rehwinkel H, Hess-Stumpp H, Bauser M, Bochtler T, Struys EA, Sharma A, Bakkali A, Geffers R, Araujo-Cruz MM, Thol F, Gabdoulline R, Ganser A, Ho AD, von Deimling A, Rippe K, Heuser M, Krämer A. **Pan-Mutant-IDH1 Inhibitor BAY1436032 is Highly Effective Against Human IDH1 Mutant Acute Myeloid Leukemia in Vivo.** Leukemia. doi: 10.1038/leu.2017.46. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28232670

\*Co-first author

### ***New awards and grants***

#### **Dr. sc. hum Sandy Engelhardt (E130)**

The dissertation with the title **Computer-Assisted Quantitative Mitral Valve Surgery** by **Dr. sc. hum. Sandy Engelhardt** has been awarded the **BVM-Award 2017 for the best PhD thesis** on the Workshop „Bildverarbeitung für die Medizin“ in Heidelberg, 12-14 March 2017. The prize is sponsored with 500 Euro by the Chili GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany.

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

*Send your information to: [u.traeger@dkfz.de](mailto:u.traeger@dkfz.de) or [n.correia@dkfz-heidelberg.de](mailto:n.correia@dkfz-heidelberg.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 to [pdn-committee@dkfz.de](mailto:pdn-committee@dkfz.de).



We are looking for PostDocs interested in joining the **Research Lounge Organization Team**. This opportunity will help you to improve your organization and management skills.

Send us an email to [pdn-committee@dkfz.de](mailto:pdn-committee@dkfz.de).

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