

50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer



newsletter

PostDoc Network

ISSUE
OCTOBER 2015

Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,

Welcome to the fall edition of our PDN Newsletter. Since the last newsletter a number of interesting events have taken place. If you didn't have the chance to attend, you can read all about them in this issue. One highlight was certainly the career day "Research and Development", which was held on 22nd of June. Many of you took the chance to hear about career options in the R&D sector. Thanks to amazing speakers and attendees this career day was a huge success (see p. 2). The upcoming career day "Academia" will take place on the 4th of December. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for updates on the program. Recently, the PDN together with the BioMedX Innovation Center launched the monthly Lunch Talk Series. Check out a list of the upcoming seminars on the PDN website (<http://www.dkfz.de/pdn>). On page 3 you can read about the recent campaign "DKFZ for Refugees" to support refugees in Heidelberg.

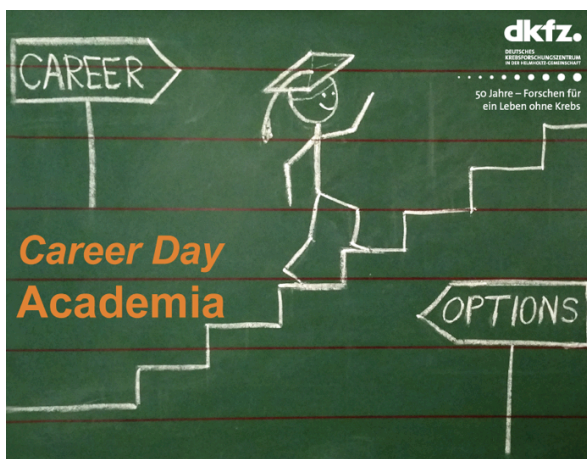
In this issue we also feature two DKFZ Postdoc Alumni: Sergey Mastitsky currently working as Data Scientist at Millicom in London and Annalisa Zuccotti now working as a Project Manager at CyberForum e.V. in Karlsruhe (see p. 4 and 5). The Welcome & Get-Together events are now organized by Barbara Costa and you can read about the latest event organized by her on page 3. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Hadeel Khallouf for her outstanding efforts in organizing those events for the last two years. The DKFZ Advanced Training and Career Service is introducing a series of seminars for the special needs of postdocs, the Postdoc Perspectives series (see p. 5). Achievements of DKFZ and DTK Postdocs are listed on page 6. The current PDN vacancies can be checked out on page 8. Last but not least we have some internal news. We will step down as editors of the PDN Newsletter and introduce Sreejith Rajasekharan and Sun Yi as the new editors. You can contact them if you have any ideas or suggestions for the next issue (s.rajasekharan@dkfz.de and yi.sun@dkfz.de).

Best wishes,
Karolin Willmund and Christian Breunig

In this Issue:

Save the Dates
DKFZ Career Day
Welcome & Get-Together
DKFZ for Refugees
Postdoc Alumni
Postdoc Perspectives
Postdoc Achievements
Vacancies at PDN

Save the Date: Career Day „Academia“ on December 4th 2015



You are interested in a career in Academia?

Get answers to your questions at the
DKFZ Career Day "Academia"

Friday, December 4th, 2015

DKFZ Communication Center

For more information visit:
<http://www.dkfz.de/careerday>

We are looking forward to see many of you there!

Lunch Talk Series



Source: BioMed X

We are happy to announce that the PDN and the BioMedX Innovation Center launch a new monthly scientific networking event -“Lunch Talk Series“- at the DKFZ. The first lunch talk by Stefan Knapp took place on October 12th and was a great success.

Upcoming Seminar:

Almut Schulze: „Targeting Cancer Metabolism“

(Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Theodor-Boveri-Institute, Biocenter, Würzburg)

When: Monday November 12th, 2015, 11 am

Where: DKFZ Communication Center Rooms K1 + K2

For a list of upcoming talks visit:

<http://www.dkfz.de/en/postdoc-network/LunchSeminar.html>

Career Day „Research & Development“

On June 22nd 2015 the PDN and the DKFZ Career Service hosted the Career Day “Research and Development”, which took place at the DKFZ Communication Center. A team of 16 PostDocs and PhD students from the DKFZ organized this event under the lead of Mirko Sobotta and Christian Breunig and learned about efficient project management by hands-on training.

The career day was very successful. More than 300 participants joined on that day and had the opportunity to hear about different companies and possible career paths in the R&D sector. 21 speakers from different companies gave insights in their work and how they made the transition from academic research to industry with many of them being DKFZ Alumni. Between the sessions, speakers and interested attendees had the chance to sit together in round table discussions to ask personal questions and to network.



Career Day R&D session and
round table discussions

Here are some take home messages from the career day:

- “There are many more opportunities than I expected.”
- “Networking and contacts are the keys at any step!”
- “There are many possibilities for a scientist to work in a company. It is important to meet people and stay in contact with them to get a potential job.”
- “Networking and motivation are very important “
- “One should never give up! It might take ages to find a job in R&D but it also can be just a pure chance thanks to networking, so networking is the key!”
- “First decide what you want and put effort into it.”
- “Different companies have different policies for recruiting.”
- “There is more chance for ‘benchwork’ in smaller companies.”
- “You don’t need to fit perfectly to the profile described in the job offer to get the job.”
- “R&D is similar compared to academia but more organized and you have to stick more to external rules.”
- “There are many different possibilities in the industry. The difficult part is to find the right one at the right moment, but it is not impossible!”

Welcome & Get-Together

Dear Postdocs and friends,

My name is Barbara Costa and I have been working as a Postdoc at the DKFZ in the Division of Signal Transduction and Growth Control (A100) since April 2013.

In July 2015, after having attended many Postdocs Get-Together events, I took over Hadeel Khallouf's role in organizing these events. The Postdoc Welcome & Get-Togethers are great events not only to network, but also to find new friends and/or collaboration partners or simply to talk science.

In order to say goodbye to Hadeel we had a BBQ on the Neckarwiese in July. The weather was extremely nice and we all thanked Hadeel for her efforts in organizing the Get-Together events for the last two years. She even prepared some delicious Syrian specialties for us. Thanks, Hadeel!

On September 30th the PDN had a special end-of-summer BBQ. The weather was sunny and warm and we met on the Casino terrace in the DKFZ main building to enjoy all kinds of grilled food together with beers and drinks. Many people attended this awesome event including Postdocs from DKFZ, NCT, and ZMBH. It was a nice evening and everyone enjoyed this potentially last BBQ of the summer. The organizing team would also like to thank the DKFZ Alumni association that supported this event.

I hope to welcome new faces at the next Get-Together event, which will be announced soon. I will keep you posted! Also, let me know if you have any ideas for future Get-Together events. See you soon!

Barbara Costa



Get-Together BBQ end of September

DKFZ for Refugees

As you all know a growing number of refugees is arriving in Germany. The Patrick-Henry-Village (PHV) in Heidelberg will be an important location for the initial reception of refugees with three quarters of all refugees in Baden-Württemberg being registered there. Currently, there are about 4000 refugees living in the PHV. While this poses a great challenge, the people in Heidelberg are showing a great willingness to help.

Some DKFZ postdocs and the PDN started an initiative to help refugees in Heidelberg. For this purpose the „DKFZ-Asylkreis“ was founded end of September by Josephine Bageritz, Christian Breunig, Christina Laufer, Stefanie Seltmann, and Karolin Willmund with the goal to initiate a donation campaign. The blue DKFZ bags were distributed and were meant to be filled with things that are urgently needed in the PHV such as language learning books, craft supplies and coloring books for kids, pens, candies, and sport shoes. The response to the campaign was overwhelming! On Friday 23rd of October, 135 moving boxes full with DKFZ bags (more than 950 bags in total) and 5 boxes full with sports shoes were collected and were handed over to the “Diakonisches Werk” in the PHV on 28th of October. It was amazing!

Thank you all for your generosity and also thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance in collecting and transporting the bags.

Karolin Willmund



*Bag collection in the main building
(source: Tobias Schwerdt, DKFZ)*

*The “DKFZ Asylkreis” is thinking about further campaigns to continuously assist the refugees in Heidelberg.
If you are interested in joining, simply write an email to c.laufer@dkfz.de*

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Annalisa Zuccotti (PhD) - Project Manager at CyberForum e.V. in Karlsruhe



Research background: Annalisa studied pharmaceutical chemistry in Pavia, Italy before she moved to Tübingen in 2007 to start her PhD. There, she investigated calcium channels with a focus on the hearing system. Her work was funded by a Marie Curie Training grant (FP6) and her laboratory was part of the European Consortium CaVnet. “Being part of such a training program gave me the possibility to develop unique skills that became very important later, for my postdoc and my actual job”, says Annalisa. In 2011, Annalisa joined the DKFZ as a Postdoc working in the Division of Clinical Neurobiology (A230) of Prof. Dr. Monyer. Since August 2015 Annalisa is Project Manager at CyberForum e.V.

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

“I am currently a Project Manager in the Innovation and International Affairs Department at CyberForum e.V. (www.cyberforum.de). CyberForum is a triple helix cluster, including companies from sectors such as software development, internet portals, e-commerce, IT consulting, social media, games, IT security, software architecture, providers, and from the creative industries. Adding to that are cities and communities, institutions, research institutes, and universities in the region of Karlsruhe. CyberForum supports its members (i.e. companies) with a broad portfolio of services, that mirrors the diversity of the members and their interests. In my specific position, I am involved in EU funded projects: from the idea development to the proposal writing; from the project implementation to the project controlling. In two running programs I am responsible for the dissemination of events and achievement of the projects (i.e. social media and project website). I also support on mentoring activities to less developed European clusters. What surprised me most of my job, was the capability to contribute to the work flow from the very beginning, even though my background was extremely different from the topics I deal with. What I like at most is to work in a team, to talk to persons and partners over Europe, to develop not-at-all-scientific ideas, to be flexible and free.”

What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job as Project Manager?

“Being a scientist. I have realized that being a scientist gives you methods and tools that you can easily apply to any field. I think I am a good example. Being a scientist has so many different aspects. We write articles and grants. We organize our own project and contribute to side ones. We supervise and teach other people. We deal with deadline and pressure. We are used to present to a wide audience.

What personally I think is often missing in a scientist, is being open, talk to people, to other scientists, share results rather than hide them. From my personal experience, I was lucky to be involved in a European consortium, that was able to develop this state of mind, my networking and interpersonal abilities.”

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

“Can I give two? The first is to remain a scientist, in the meaning to call themselves still scientists. It is what we are, independently of what we do.

The second is to show concretely that we, as scientists, can do very well also other things, e.g. organize events, work in team, disseminate information that are not only scientific results. To do so, it is great if one finds the time to volunteer or to be part of the PDN, for example.”

You can contact Annalisa by e-mail: annalisazuccotti@gmail.com

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Sergey Mastitsky (PhD) – Data Scientist at Millicom in London



Research background: Sergey received his PhD in 2004 in the field of Ecology from the Belarussian State University. Over the last 10 years he conducted multidisciplinary academic research in a number of institutions and countries including the Belarussian State University (BSU in Belarus), Buffalo State College (USA) and the DKFZ, where he was a Postdoc in the Division of Theoretical Bioinformatics (B080) from 2010 to 2012. Since 2012 Sergey works in an industrial setting, first as a Statistical Modeler at BASF (Germany), and since August 2014 as a Data Scientist at Millicom (an international mobile operator headquartered in London, UK).

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

“In my current role as Data Scientist, I am involved in a number of analytical initiatives, such development of customer segmentation models, customer attrition models, revenue forecasting, estimation of the impact of marketing campaigns, etc. What I very much like about this job is the possibility to work on diverse and interesting topics in a multicultural organization, solve intellectually challenging practical problems, and travel to different countries. Due to the wide range of problems I am working on, I am constantly growing professionally and staying up-to-date with technology – this is very important in our fast-changing world.”

What skills have been useful in obtaining your new job as Data Scientist?

“Both of my jobs in industry required skills that, among others, include: deep knowledge of statistical and machine learning methods, programming, data visualization, ability to efficiently deliver complex technical information to non-experts, and the ability to translate a business problem into a Data Science problem.”

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

“Learn something new every single day, and never stop practicing.”

You can contact Sergey by e-mail (sergey.mastitsky@alumni.dkfz.de) or LinkedIn (<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/mastitsky>)

News from the DKFZ Advanced Training and Career Service

The Advanced Training and Career Service offer a series of short and interactive seminars, that deal with topics relevant for post-docs, the so called **Postdoc Perspectives Seminars**. Please find below immediately up-coming seminars in this series:

Postdoc
Perspectives

Postdoc Perspectives: Focus on Habilitation

Habilitation continues to be an important career step in academia. This interactive information seminar by Prof. Ilse Hofmann and PD Dr. Karsten Gülow (both DKFZ) offers an opportunity to share experience and to learn more about the process.

When: Tuesday 10th November 2015, 2-3 pm

Where: DKFZ TP3 Buchleither Seminar Room

Postdoc Perspectives: Focus on 12-year rule/Wissenschafts-Zeitvertrags Gesetz

Many PostDocs working in research hold a contract of limited duration. A law, the so-called “Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz” sets the guidelines on which limited duration contracts can be signed. In this seminar by Yördis Ehlers (DKFZ Deputy-head of HR) you will learn more about this law and how it might affect your career.

When: Tuesday 29th November 2015, 2-3 pm

Where: DKFZ TP3 Buchleither Seminar Room

Postdoc Perspectives: Focus on grants

Writing grant applications and getting funded is an important success factor in academia.

In this interactive information seminar, Dr. Susan Kentner (DKFZ, acting head of Administrative Project Management) will give an overview on funding agencies, opportunities for postdocs, and the big points to consider when writing a grant application.

When: 10th December 2015, 1 pm

Where: DKFZ TP3 Buchleither Seminar Room

For questions about the Postdoc Perspective seminar series please contact Celina Cziepluch from the DKFZ Advanced Training (c.cziepluch@dkfz.de)

Save the date: Grant Writing – a hands-on training January 2016

In this 2-day workshop Postdocs who are in the process of preparing a grant application will provide feedback on each other's grant proposals and practice their writing skills. The training will include an introductory session about European and other funding possibilities, specifically tailored for DKFZ scientists. Further topics include what reviewers want and how to give it to them, how to structure a grant section including "project aims," "research background," and "innovation and significance," the importance of a strong summary, and the use of short and convincing language.

When: 26th and 27th January 2016, 9 am - 6 pm

Where: DKFZ (room will be announced)

Trainers: Julia D. Staykova, PhD (Scriptorium Founder and Director) and Susan Kentner, PhD, (DKFZ, acting head of Administrative Project Management)

If you are working on a grant application, you can initiate the registration process now via the HCM-Portal. Please note that participants will be selected based on information to be provided by you at the time of registration.

Celina Cziepluch

Achievements by Postdocs

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

New Publications

Ruzhica Bogeska (A010)

Kaschutnig P*, Bogeska R*, Walter D*, Lier A, Huntscha S, Milsom MD (2015) The Fanconi anemia pathway is required for efficient repair of stress-induced DNA damage in haematopoietic stem cells. **Cell Cycle** 14(17):2734-42 doi: 10.1080/15384101.2015.1068474 (*contributed equally)

Costa Demetriades (B140)

Plescher M., Teleman AA., and Demetriades C. TSC2 mediates hyperosmotic stress-induced inactivation of mTORC1. **Scientific Reports** 8;5:13828 (2015). doi: 10.1038/srep13828

Elham Kharazmi (C050)

Kharazmi E, Fallah M, Pukkala E, Olsen JH, Tryggvadottir L, Sundquist K, Tretli S, Hemminki K. Risk of familial classical Hodgkin lymphoma by relationship, histology, age, and sex: A joint study from five Nordic countries. **Blood**, 2015-04-639781 (2015). doi: 10.1182/blood-2015-04-639781

Kharazmi E, Hemminki K, Pukkala E, Sundquist K, Tryggvadottir L, Tretli S, Olsen JH, Fallah M. Cancer Risk in Relatives of Testicular Cancer Patients by Histology Type and Age at Diagnosis: A Joint Study from Five Nordic Countries. **European Urology** 68(2):283-9 (2015). doi: 10.1016/j.eururo.2014.12.031

Publications continued

Elham Kharazmi (C050)

Kharazmi E, Forsti A, Sundquist K, Hemminki K. Survival in familial and non-familial breast cancer by age and stage at diagnosis. **European Journal Of Cancer** (In press)

Fallah M*, Kharazmi*, Pukkala E, Tretli S, Olsen J, Tryggvadottir L, Sundquist K, Hemminki K. Familial risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma by sex, relationship, age at diagnosis and histology: A joint study from five Nordic countries. **Leukemia** (In press) (*contributed equally)

Cläre von Neubeck (DKTK Dresden)

Willers H, Gheorghiu L, Liu Q, Efsthathiou JA, Wirth LJ, Krause M, von Neubeck C. DNA Damage Response Assessments in Human Tumor Samples Provide Functional Biomarkers of Radiosensitivity. **Semin Radiat Oncol.** 25(4):237-50 (2015). doi: 10.1016/j.semradonc.2015.05.007

von Neubeck C, Seidlitz A, Kitzler HH, Beuthien-Baumann B, Krause M. Glioblastoma multiforme: emerging treatments and stratification markers beyond new drugs. **Br J Radiol.** (2015) doi: 10.1259/bjr.20150354

Kristin Rattay (D090)

P. Brennecke⁵, A. Reyes⁵, S. Pinto⁵, K. Rattay⁵, M. Nguyen, R. Kuchler, W. Huber⁶, B. Kyewski⁶, and L. M. Steinmetz⁶. Single-cell transcriptome analysis reveals coordinated ectopic gene-expression patterns in medullary thymic epithelial cells. **Nat Immunol** 16, 933–941 (2015). doi: 10.1038/ni.3246 ⁵ These authors contributed equally to this work. ⁶ These authors jointly directed this work.

Anja Rudolph (C020)

Rudolph A, Fasching PA, Behrens S, et al. A comprehensive evaluation of interaction between genetic variants and use of menopausal hormone therapy on mammographic density. **Breast Cancer Res.** 17:110 (2015) doi: 10.1186/s13058-015-0625-9.

Sheng Zhao (A290)

Enric Llorens-Bobadilla*, Sheng Zhao*, et al. Single cell transcriptomics reveals a population of dormant neural stem cells that becomes activated upon brain injury. **Cell Stem Cell**, 17, 329–340 (2015). doi: 10.1016/j.stem.2015.07.002 (*contributed equally)

New Awards and Grants

Antje Dietrich (DKTK Dresden)

Antje Dietrich received a poster prize at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Biological Radiation Research (GBS) in the session “Strategies to Modify Radiation Responses of Normal and Tumor Tissue/ Cells”. She presented the poster with the title “How application timing during fractionated radiotherapy influences antibody uptake: investigations using NIR-labelled Cetuximab”.

Elham Kharazmi (C050)

Elham Kharazmi’s abstract of Kharazmi et al. (2015) blood (see above) has been awarded by the American Association of Cancer Research Annual meeting 2015; it has been selected for press release by the American Society of Hematology (ASH Clinical News).

Cläre von Neubeck (DKTK Dresden)

Cläre von Neubeck obtained together with Prof. Dr. Mechthild Krause a grant from the “Central Innovation Program for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises” of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy for the project “Automatisierung eines High-Throughput Screening Assays für die Identifikation neuer Kombinationstherapien in der personalisierten Onkologie” (2.5 year project, 160.310 €) together with the industrial partner GA Generic Assays.

New Awards and Grants continued

Gina Walter (G100):

Gina Walter received the “International Award for Research in Leukaemia” from the Lady Tata Memorial Trust for her work on “Unravelling the mechanism underlying the anti-differentiation function of CDK6 to develop novel combination therapies for MLL-rearranged acute myeloid leukaemia”.

In the next newsletter we will again promote achievements by DKFZ & DKTK Postdocs.

Name us your publications, awards, and grants!

Send your information to: s.rajabekharan@dkfz.de or yi.sun@dkfz.de

Vacancies at PDN

Organizer of Career Seminars, Support of Web & Poster Design

From now on, we are looking for new co-workers of the Web & Poster Design team. We are also looking for people supporting the Lunch Talk Series. If you would like to improve your creativity, networking and communication skills, these positions are just right for you.

Next PDN committee meetings

Our next PDN meeting is on **November 19th** from **11:00-12:00 am** in **H2.02.073**.

We are having our PDN committee meetings **Thursdays every two weeks** from **11:00-12:00 am** in **H2.02.073**.

The PDN committee always welcomes new members. If you prefer to try yourself in something else or have your own valuable ideas, there is always an opportunity for you at the PDN. **Join us!**

Save the Dates - Summary

Postdoc Retreat

November 5th - 6th 2015

Career Day “Academia”

December 4th 2015

Next Lunch Talk: Dr. Almut Schulze

November 12th, 11 am in K1/K2

Postdoc Perspectives: Focus on Habilitation

November 10th 2015, 2-3 pm, TP3 Buchleiter Seminar Room

Running Meet-up (New times!)

Tuesdays 7 pm at the main building
(contact Octavio Espinosa)

PDN: From Postdocs for Postdocs
Making more of your time as a Postdoc at DKFZ!

Imprint

Editors:

Dr. C. Breunig, Dr. K. Willmund
Dr. S. Rajasekharan, Dr. Y. Sun
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
PostDoc Network (PDN)
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280
69120 Heidelberg,
phone +49-6221 - 424769
e-mail: PDN@dkfz.de
homepage: www.dkfz.de/pdn

PDN Committee:

Christian Breunig
Barbara Costa
Katarina Cuk
Octavio Espinosa
Michael Flechter
Ann-Christin Gaupel
Stephanie Hoppe
Timo Kehl
Marina Laplana

Yunxiang Liao
Eva Nievergall
Sreejith Rajasekharan
Kristin Rattay
Yi Sun
Johannes Werner
Heiko Weyd
Karolin Willmund

dkfz.

GERMAN
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer