



newsletter

PostDoc Network

ISSUE
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Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,

In the autumn issue of the PDN Newsletter, you can read about the Career Day: Medical Physics which took place on 2nd May 2016; recent Welcome and Get-together events organized by Barbara Costa and Career paths of two of our DKFZ Postdoc alumni – Manuela Zucknick and Björn Lamprecht. You also have the opportunity to learn about the Advance Training courses offered for the DKFZ Postdocs, recent achievements of our Postdocs and the vacancies at PDN.

As you all are aware, every year the DKFZ recruits early career scientists from around the globe to carry out their Postdoctoral research at DKFZ through the DKFZ Postdoc Fellowship program. The last selection round was held in late 2015 and we congratulate the six new fellows. We are happy to introduce Hana Nůšková, Nádia Correia and Pavlo Lutsik. You can read more about them on page 3.

Further, we would like to thank Eva Nievergall for her contributions and services to the PDN. We wish her the very best as she leaves DKFZ to move on with her career.

*Until the next issue,
Sreejith Rajasekharan, Doris Schneller and Ulrike Träger*

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Career Day: Medical Physics 2016



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The Career Day “Medical Physics” on May 2nd 2016 was organized by a team of seven PhD students and PostDocs. There were 13 speakers (all DKFZ Alumni), 120 participants and four sessions covering “Academic Careers”, “Careers in Clinics”, “Company and Business Careers” and “Careers in Industry”. Prof. Schlegel gave a great overview of the Career paths the medical physics Alumni from his lab took, and participants could ask personal questions in two highly interactive round table sessions. The aim of this Career Day was to provide information about different career opportunities within Medical Physics, to provide a platform to meet and interact with people from different backgrounds, to understand the needs and queries of the participants with respect to this field and to promote medical physics as a fascinating interdisciplinary profession with good options.

Being a member of the Career Day organizing team is a “Hands-on Project Management” training offered by DKFZ Advanced Training. Xin Gao, one of the organizers, was so kind to share a report on his personal experience:

“When I joined the organizer team of the Career Day “Medical Physics”, I was new to Heidelberg. Actually, it is my first time to study abroad and I was too shy to speak to others. In order to step out of my comfort zone, I forced myself to take part in organizing this event. In hindsight I love this decision because of the progress that I personally made during the organization of the event. In the team, I was responsible for the organization of catering. I had to take care of ordering drinks, food, cookies and service staff at a reasonable price. Therefore, a lot of communication and negotiation with casino was necessary. For me personally this was great a challenge. Fortunately, I had a team behind me and we acted as a team. My teammates helped me to overcome my fear. Now I am happy to see that I am more confident and a better team player.” (Xin Gao)

Save the Dates:

PostDoc Retreat 2016

When? 20th and 21st October, 2016

Where? Hers-Jesu Monastery, Neustadt

Who? Postdocs from DKFZ, NCT and DKTK

What? Scientific Exchange

Get-Together & Networking

Career Development with Anne Forde and Philipp Gramlich

Science Slam Session by Lorenz Adlung

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 – 13th October, 2016, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)
27st October, 2016, DKFZ Main Building, 3rd floor seminar room (H2.03.068)

DKFZ Postdoc Fellowships 2015

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 2015, six new Postdoc Fellows were recruited. PDN is happy to introduce three of the new faces here.

Hana Nůšková obtained her PhD from the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague. Her studies regarding the biogenesis, function and structural interactions of the enzyme complexes of the mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation system in various types of mitochondrial dysfunction and other defects, such as heart failure were performed at Institute of Physiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. At the DKFZ, Hana joined the **Division of Signal Transduction in Cancer and Metabolism (B140)** to elucidate how mTOR signaling might affect the mitochondrial morphology and function.

“I wanted to join my partner who had been living in this area. Regarding the topic, I didn’t want to leave mitochondria, which I knew I wouldn’t have to do at the DKFZ.”, says Hana.



Nádia Correia worked at the institute for molecular medicine (IMM-Lisboa) and obtained her PhD from University of Lisbon. During her thesis she studied microRNAs in the context of paediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, specifically if miRNAs can regulate and be regulated by an important transcriptional factor (TAL1). At DKFZ, Nádia joined the **Division of Stem Cells and Cancer (A010)** and hopes to bring light into the molecular mechanisms that underlie relapse in DNMT3A mutated Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Asked why she chose Heidelberg, Nádia said “Project; infrastructures/facilities available; location, location, location; international recognition”

Pavlo Lutsik obtained his PhD from the Saarland University, Germany. Working in the group of Joern Walter, his research focused on computational aspects of the DNA methylation research and creation of software tools for processing and analysis of DNA methylomes. At DKFZ, Pavlo will continue his work on bioinformatic tools and pipelines for DNA methylation data, analysis and deconvolution of heterogeneous DNA methylomes in the Computational Epigenomics subgroup of **Division of Epigenomics and Cancer Risk Factors (C010)**.

“Cancer, being one of the most acute topics in human medicine, offers a variety of extremely challenging and compelling research questions. As one of the Germany's top biomedical research institutions with a global reputation DKFZ is currently the right place to try and approach these research problems. I hope that the computational methods and tools I have been working on during my doctoral studies can be of some use in this respect.”, says Pavlo.



Welcome and Get-together



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Dear PostDocs and friends,

Did you know that the PDN organizes a get-together once a month?

And did you know that coming to the get-together is, first of all, lots of fun?

At the dinner in the restaurant Merlin in September, for instance, we laughed a lot talking about methylome profiling but also about geography, languages and many other topics. At almost midnight we were the only customers left still chatting and having fun.

In August we had summer break but in July we enjoyed the good weather with a traditional BBQ on the Neckarwiese. Our professional disposable grills were on fire until late in the evening cooking all kinds of meat and sausages, vegetables and cheese.

In June we were at the restaurant Urban Kitchen supporting Germany playing against Poland during the Football European Championship. I am not sure we all 100% supported Germany, cause we all come from different countries. But this is the beauty of our monthly get-together, you can always meet new people coming from countries you have never visited or heard of and still, we have fun together.

In May there was no event, while in April we tried French cuisine at the restaurant Tati.

We know that the life of a PostDoc is quite busy performing experiments, taking care of students, writing grants, spending time with your partner and, in some case, also taking care of children but if you manage to find the time to come once to one of the get-together you will not regret it. The get-togethers are nice occasions to relax, meet new people, know what other labs are doing and maybe even start new collaborations. Networking offers new encounters and new possibilities. However, networking in Heidelberg is not always easy due the quantity of different research institutes. Coming to the get-together could be an easy and fun way to expand your network.

The invitations for the get-together are now send out through the new mailing list pdn-friends@dkf.de that includes not only present PostDocs from DKFZ, TP3, TP4, ZMBH and NCT but also alumni and PostDocs from other institutes in Heidelberg. If you are not in the mailing list and you wish to be part of it send an email to b.costa@dkfz.de

Looking forward to see you in one of our next get-together,

Barbara Costa

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Manuela Zucknick - Associate Professor for Biostatistics at the University of Oslo



Manuela Zucknick

Research background:

Manuela's background is in biostatistics with a focus on applications in clinical and translational oncology; the use of statistical methods for linking the molecular biology of cancer with clinical outcomes. She's particularly interested in methods for integrating different sources of omics data and for incorporating prior biological knowledge in risk prediction models.

She obtained her PhD in Biostatistics from Imperial College London in 2009, and she has an MSc in Bioinformatics (Imperial College London, 2004) and a Diplom (equivalent to a 5-year MSc) in Statistics (University of Dortmund, 2003).

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

"I am an Associate Professor for Biostatistics at the Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology and at the Department of Biostatistics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo. My tasks include research in my field and the supervision of PhD students and PostDocs in our department, as well as statistical advising and teaching for clinical and basic medical science PhD students at the Faculty of Medicine. Of course, there are also administrative tasks and the need for writing grant applications.

I like the diversity of my job. I get to work in very different projects and meet interesting people from many different backgrounds. I am learning something new every day; something I hope will never change. What I like about teaching and supervision is the chance to interact with the students and to experience their enthusiasm. It is very rewarding to be able to help a student to develop the skills they need to succeed with their project.

A typical day might start with a meeting with a PhD student in clinical research, where we discuss the statistical analysis plan for her next publication. Afterwards I might spend some time preparing slides for an upcoming PhD-level course or writing code for a simulation study to explore certain properties of a new statistical method that we are developing. And in the afternoon I might attend a statistical theory seminar at the Mathematics department."

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

"Communication skills are probably most important, especially across different disciplines. It has been very helpful that I had a lot of practice with that through the "Biostatistical service and support" offered by the Biostatistics department at DKFZ and from working as a statistician in biomedical projects at the DKFZ. My specialisation in statistical methods for (high-throughput) omics data was also an advantage, since not so many biostatisticians work in this area."

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

"Everybody knows that a good publication record is very important, but department heads also want to make sure that their new staff will be willing to contribute with all the other responsibilities as well, such as grant writing and in teaching. Start writing grant applications as soon as possible, for example as a co-applicant together with your supervisor. In addition to learning an important skill in itself, this also helps you to define and clarify your own research plans. Use opportunities for teaching, even if it is only individual lectures or seminars, to explore if this is something you

like. And last not least, gain some experience with the supervision of students, for example by offering to be the responsible "go-to" person for a summer intern in your department or by supervising a BSc or MSc project."

Björn Lamprecht - Market Access Manager at Roche Pharma AG



Björn Lamprecht

Research background:

Björn studied biology in Berlin at the Humboldt University. During these studies one of his non-biologic subjects was business economics.

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

"I am a Market Access Manager at Roche Pharma AG. In this position I am responsible for the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Germany for every new drug entity of the company.

This process is mandatory after the European approval of the drug in Germany since 2011 (The corresponding law is called AMNOG). The HTA is the prerequisite to negotiate the price of the drug with the social health insurances in Germany. The process includes the preparation of a comprehensive dossier in which the additional benefit of the new drug compared to the current standard of care in the respective entity is demonstrated."

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

"I think what the most important thing is to be able to think very strategically. For sure you have to understand every scientific detail around the product and the respective entity, but you should also be able to provide this information in a structured and comprehensible way. Its also a challenge to get input from every team member at the right time and in the appropriate form. So teamwork and communication are very essential skills."

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

"Inform yourself as much as you can about the skills and the daily work this job requires. Don't do it only because you think it might be a nice job, you really should want to do it. It is absolutely exiting and waits with new challenges every day that you can solve. This is very satisfying for me, but I can imagine some of the researches might miss the lab."

Advanced Training for Postdocs - SAVE THE DATE!

Information Seminar on "The new "Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz" – also known as the 12-year rule.": 24th November, 2016 14:00, Lecture Hall DKFZ

Bettina Crispin (Head of Human Resources) will give insights into changes in this important law and how these affect scientist at DKFZ. Interested postdocs are warmly welcome.

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 .

Please register through the HCM-Portal.

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.

TRAIN and Gain for Postdocs

Are you interested in advancing your training and leadership skills and at the same time benefitting from support for your research? At DKFZ, postdocs may get involved in training future laboratory technicians. Trainees work under supervision of a postdoc and thereby directly contribute to research projects. Please contact Tatjana Kirchhoff-Muranyi t.kirchhoff@dkfz.de for further information.

Coming up 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.)	Workshops planned for 2017 (on demand): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story telling in science - from planning to delivery• Writing scientific English To express your interest, please sign up in the HCM portal.
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Valuable resources freely available to all Postdocs

The **Howard Hughes Medical Institute** provides valuable training material for researchers. You may **download complete text books and information files on topics of real importance to scientists**.

- Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty, Second Edition
(<http://www.hhmi.org/sites/default/files/Educational%20Materials/Lab%20Management/Making%20the%20Right%20Moves/moves2.pdf>)
Management guidance for new investigators preparing to launch independent research laboratories.
- Training Scientists to Make the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Developing Programs in Scientific Management
<http://www.hhmi.org/sites/default/files/Educational%20Materials/Lab%20Management/Training%20Scientists/training-scientists>
Planning resources for training first-time laboratory heads.

- Writing a Letter of Recommendation
<http://www.hhmi.org/sites/default/files/Educational%20Materials/Lab%20Management/letter.pdf>
Guidance for writing letters of recommendation pertaining to scholarly work.
- Entering Mentoring: A Seminar to Train a New Generation of Scientists)
http://www.hhmi.org/sites/default/files/Educational%20Materials/Lab%20Management/entering_m
Materials dedicated to improving the mentoring skills of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who may become science faculty.

<http://www.hhmi.org/programs/resources-early-career-scientist-development>

Achievements by Postdocs

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

New Publications

Cindy Körner (B050)

Salem O, Erdem N, Jung J, Münstermann E, Wörner A, Wilhelm H, Wiemann S, Körner C. (2016) The highly expressed 5'isomiR of hsa-miR-140-3p contributes to the tumor-suppressive effects of miR-140 by reducing breast cancer proliferation and migration. BMC Genomics. 2016 Aug 8;17:566. doi: 10.1186/s12864-016-2869-x.

Vanessa Fernandez (DKTK/L701)

Engel, K., Rudelius, M., Slawska, J., Jacobs, L., Ahangarian, A.-B., Altmann, B., Kurutz, J., Rathakrishnan, A., Fernández-Sáiz, V., Brunner, A., Targosz, B.-S., Loewecke, F., Gloeckner, C.-J., Ueffing, M., Fulda, S., Pfreundschuh, M., Trümper, L., Klapper, W., Keller, U., Jost, P.-J., Rosenwald, A., Peschel, C. and Bassermann, F. (2016) USP9X stabilizes XIAP to regulate mitotic cell death and chemoresistance in aggressive B-cell lymphoma. EMBO Mol Med. 2016 Aug 1;8(8):851-62. doi: 10.15252/emmm.201506047.

Eichner, R., Heider, M*, Fernández-Sáiz, V*, van Bebbber, F., Garz, A.-K., Lemeer, S., Rudelius, M., Targosz, B.-S., Jacobs, L., Knorn, A.-M., Slawska, J., Platzbecker, U., Germing, U., Langer, C., Knop, S., Einsele, H., Peschel, C., Haass, C., Keller, U., Schmid, B., Götze, G., Kuster, B. and Bassermann, F. (2016) Immunomodulatory drugs restrain the CD147/MCT1 complex to exert anti-tumor activity and teratogenicity. Nat. Med. 2016 Jul;22(7):735-43. doi: 10.1038/nm.4128.

Sina Straub (E020)

Straub S, Schneider TM, Emmerich J, Freitag MT, Ziener CH, Schlemmer HP, Ladd ME, Laun FB. Suitable reference tissues for quantitative susceptibility mapping of the brain. Magn Reson Med. 2016 Aug 16. doi: 10.1002/mrm.26369. [Epub ahead of print]

Straub S, Laun FB, Emmerich J, Jobke B, Hauswald H, Katayama S, Herfarth K, Schlemmer HP, Ladd ME, Ziener CH, Bonekamp D, Röthke MC. Potential of quantitative susceptibility mapping for detection of prostatic calcifications. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2016 Jul 15. doi: 10.1002/jmri.25385. [Epub ahead of print]

Priya Chudasama (G100)

Chudasama P, Renner M, Straub M, Mughal SS, Hutter B, Kosaloglu Z, Schweßinger R, Scheffler M, Alldinger I, Schimmack S, Persigehl T, Kobe C, Jäger D, von Kalle C, Schirmacher P, Beckhaus MK, Wolf S, Heining C, Gröschel S, Wolf J, Brors B, Weichert W, Glimm H, Scholl C, Mechttersheimer G, Specht K, Fröhling S. Targeting fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 for treatment of soft-tissue sarcoma. Clin Cancer Res. 2016 Aug 17. pii: clincanres.0860.2016. [Epub ahead of print]

Tobias Bauer (B080)

Bauer T, Trump S, Ishaque N, Thürmann L, Gu L, Bauer M, Bieg M, Gu Z, Weichenhan D, Mallm JP, Röder S, Herberth G, Takada E, Mücke O, Winter M, Junge KM, Grützmann K, Rolle-Kampczyk U, Wang Q, Lawerenz C, Borte M, Polte T, Schlesner M, Schanne M, Wiemann S, Georg C, Stunnenberg HG, Plass C, Rippe K, Mizuguchi J, Herrmann C, Eils R, Lehmann I. Environment-induced epigenetic reprogramming in genomic regulatory elements in smoking mothers and their children. *Mol Syst Biol.* 2016 Mar 24;12(3):861. doi: 10.15252/msb.20156520.

Constantinos Demetriades (B140)

Demetriades C, Plescher M, Teleman AA. Lysosomal recruitment of TSC2 is a universal response to cellular stress. *Nat Commun.* 2016 Feb 12;7:10662. doi: 10.1038/ncomms10662.

Congratulations to our DKFZ Postdoc Constantinos Demetriades who will now set up his own research group at the Max-Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing (MPI-AGE) in Cologne



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGY OF AGEING

The Max Planck Research Group „Cell Growth control in Health and age-related Disease“
headed by Dr. Constantinos Demetriades
is looking for a full time
Postdoctoral Research Fellow (m/f)
(job code 12-2016)

Check out the technician, PhD student and postdoc positions he posted under <https://dkfz-connect.de/job>

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.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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50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer