

50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer



newsletter

PostDoc Network

ISSUE
JUNE 2015

Dear Postdocs and Colleagues,

sun is shining, the weather is sweet - summer has finally made its way to Heidelberg! We have quite some news to spread since our last PDN Newsletter and there are also some events coming up that you might not want to miss. The last Career Day organized by the PDN and the DKFZ Career Service is still fresh in our memories, but the next one is coming up next week. You can read about the great success of the Publishing Career Day on page 2. It took place in early May and speakers working in the publishing sector gave insights into their personal career path into the publishing world. The next Career Day will be on Research and Development and is taking place on June 22nd 2015 at the DKFZ Communication Center. Speakers from various companies will give presentations and are available during round-table discussions. Several of them are DKFZ Alumni. Registration is open, so take your chance to network and to learn more about job options in the R&D sector. Also, don't miss the NCT Concert "1.188 Bars against Cancer" on June 20th at town hall Heidelberg.

In this issue you can read about the career paths of two DKFZ Postdoc Alumni – one academic and one industry. Rosario Piro is now working as an assistant professor at FU Berlin and Irene Helbing as a Project Manager R&D at Alere Technologies in Jena (see pages 4 and 5). We also had quite a number of Get-Together events since the last issue and you can read about those on page 3. Some of us are very sportive and participated in the Heidelberg half marathon with its challenging 21.0975 km long track up and down the beautiful valley of Heidelberg (see page 3). And last but not least, you can read about achievements of DKFZ & DKTK Postdocs and check out PDN vacancies (see pages 5 and 6).

*Enjoy the summer,
Karolin Willmund and Christian Breunig*

In this Issue:

Save the Dates
DKFZ Career Day
Welcome & Get-Together
DKFZ Running Team
Postdoc Alumni
Postdoc achievements
Vacancies at PDN

Save the Date: Career Day „Research & Development“ on June 22nd 2015

You are interested in a career in the R&D sector?

Get answers to your questions at the
DKFZ Career Day "Research & Development"

Check out the program and the speakers profiles:
<http://www.dkfz.de/en/career-service/careerday.html>

Registration is free of charge:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/career-day-rd-tickets-16953855438>

We are looking forward to see many of you there!

Save the Date: NCT Concert „1.188 Bars against Cancer“

Buy one bar, otherwise it won't be played!

Duke Ellington: The concert of Sacred Music
Performed by: SRH Bigband & Teresa Chor

When: June 20th 2015, 8 pm
Where: Town Hall (Stadthalle) Heidelberg

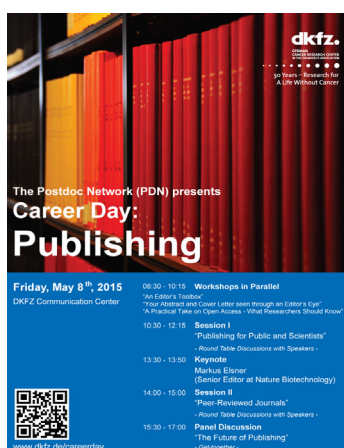
One bar costs 25 € and it is your ticket to the concert!

Get more information and buy bars here (in German only):
www.nct-takte.de



[»back to top](#)

Career Day „Publishing“



Career Day "Publishing" program

More than 100 participants, mainly PhD students and postdocs from DKFZ and the University of Heidelberg, attended the Career Day on Publishing, May 8th 2015. The event took place at the DKFZ Communication Center and was organized by the DKFZ Career Service in collaboration with the PostDoc Network (PDN).

The Career Day started early in the morning with three parallel workshops. Topics of the workshops were "Open Access" and "An Editor's Toolbox" and one workshop focused on an editor's tips and tricks for good abstracts and cover letters.

Following the workshops, experts working in the publishing sector gave short presentations about their personal career paths and their daily tasks. Speakers included editors from open access and peer-reviewed journals as well as experts working in the field of science communication (both to scientists and non-scientists). The keynote lecture was held by Markus Elsner who is Senior Editor at *Nature Biotechnology*.

During the interactive round-table discussions after each session attendees had the chance to ask the speakers more specific questions, discuss topics in smaller groups, and to network with speakers and peers from different institutes. The Career Day ended with a lively panel discussion about the future of publishing.

We, as the organizing team, were overwhelmed by the high number of attendees and positive feedback we received. We would like to thank everyone who made this Career Day on publishing such a success and in particular the attendees for their active participation. We hope to see many of you again at the next Career Day on Research and Development on June 22nd, 2015.

Claudia Savini and Karolin Willmund



Panel discussion about the future of publishing

[»back to top](#)

Welcome & Get-Together

Dear Postdocs and friends,

As always, I am so glad that many of you have been regularly joining the Welcome & Get-Together events and that many new participants have joined us recently.

In March we had a nice French dinner at Tati, where many funny stories were shared and even one German-Portuguese tandem was created! In April, we met in the traditional German restaurant Vettres. That was a nice occasion to discuss about science, everyday lab life, possible collaborations and of course about different German sausages and beer!



*Get-Together at restaurant Vettres and picnic at Neckarwiese
(© Hadeel Khallouf)*

As the weather finally got warmer in May, I spontaneously decided to organize a picnic on the Neckarwiese. Despite the fact that it was quite spontaneous there was a small yet very international group of scientists who turned the little picnic into a professional international BBQ feast. Participants were from Canada, Scotland, Macedonia, Italy and Spain and I brought as promised a Syrian hummus and bread with self-made kebab! I hope the weather will stay nice for a while so we can have more open-air events.

Stay tuned for the coming Get-Together(s) in June. We will for sure go to the Hendsemer Kerwe (<http://www.tiefburg.de/kerwe.html>) and there might be also some other event; you will get all related details as usual by email.

I hope you are having a good time at the Get-Together events and I am always happy to hear your comments and suggestions. It is thanks to you that all those Get-Together events have been a success.

Hadeel Khallouf

[»back to top](#)

DKFZ Runners at the Heidelberg half marathon

On Sunday 26th April, 34 DKFZ runners participated in the Heidelberg half marathon.

The Heidelberg half marathon, which is an annual event, takes a scenic route through the old town of Heidelberg, Neuenheim, Ziegelhausen (via Philosophenweg), and finally returning to the old town by passing by the Heidelberg Castle. While the track is very scenic, it is also challenging because of the unique relief of the valley. In addition to our DKFZ runners we also had a group of very enthusiastic supporters who came to cheer for our running team!

Octavio Espinosa



The DKFZ half marathon running team

[»back to top](#)

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Rosario Piro (PhD) – Assistant Professor at FU Berlin



Research background: Rosario obtained his PhD in Molecular Medicine in January 2011 from Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy, where he developed computational methods and applications for the prediction of disease genes for hereditary disorders. In March 2011, he joined DKFZ's Division of Theoretical Bioinformatics (B080) to work on methods for the identification of cancer-related regulatory switches in metabolic pathways as well as cancer genetics/genomics. After two and a half years, he moved to the Division of Molecular Genetics (B060), where he continued his work on cancer genetics within the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK) until February 2015. Rosario left the DKFZ early this year to become an assistant professor (Juniorprofessor) in Medical Bioinformatics at Freie Universität (FU) Berlin and Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

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

"Since I moved from a postdoc position with an exclusive focus on research to an assistant professorship, I have started to appreciate the associated additional duties in teaching and supporting the academic self-administration, e.g. participating in admissions and selection committees. In addition, fundraising is of major importance for establishing my own research group.

Of course, these additional tasks reduce the overall time at my disposal for research activities. In turn, I have every desired freedom in choosing research topics as well as in designing and implementing projects. To sum up, my new job offers a lot of new stimuli and challenges."

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

"For obtaining a call to an assistant professorship, one of the main criteria is obviously your scientific track record; in my case several first-author publications for many of which I am also the corresponding author. But other decisive factors will also have played a role: during my PhD, and to a limited extent also at DKFZ, I gained some experience in teaching (practical courses, participation in oral exams, etc) and grant writing. Other "soft skills" have served me well during the selection process, like communication skills (giving talks at conferences, conveying ideas in project meetings with diverging stakeholders) that I could develop already during my "predoc" period in an international, EU-funded project on Grid computing."

What is your tip for DKFZ Postdocs that are interested in pursuing an academic career:

"While your scientific track record is obviously very important for an academic career, you should not neglect other skills. Gaining experience in teaching and grant writing, as well as improving your communication skills (giving interesting talks) should be part of your continuing formation. Don't miss opportunities that come along your way (e.g. the advanced training offered at DKFZ). Sometimes you have to ask explicitly for opportunities or actively search for them, including honest feedback and criticism from your colleagues ("Was my talk interesting or did you fall asleep?" or "How can I improve?"). Finally, participating in selections for academic (or industrial) positions can be considered a soft skill in its own right. Invest some time and try to apply for some positions you'd be interested in but do not necessarily need. You'll be more relaxed, showing more confidence, when competing for the one position you really want to have."

You can contact Rosario by e-mail: r.piro@fu-berlin.de

Rosario joined the first DKFZ Alumni Get-Together in Berlin in April this year, an excellent occasion to stay in touch with current and former researchers from DKFZ.

[»back to top](#)

Career Paths of DKFZ Postdoc Alumni

Irene Helbing (PhD) – Project Manager R&D at Alere Technologies in Jena



Research background: Irene gained her PhD in Molecular Medicine from Uppsala University, Sweden in 2011 where she worked on method development to detect interacting molecules in situ (in situ PLA). After a short postdoctoral period in Uppsala, Irene joined the Division of Molecular Genetics (B060) at the DKFZ to investigate the regulation of BCAT1 expression in glioblastoma. Since January 2015 she is working as Project Manager R&D at Alere Technologies in Jena.

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

"I am a project manager in the reagent development group at Alere Technologies and a part of the R&D team. In this group I develop quality control methods for incoming reagents and intermediate products. This allows us a tight control of the reagents that will be utilized in the final point of care device. What I like most about my job is being a part of an interdisciplinary team working on a medical device – to see how different components are brought together to a final product and what impact the quality control requirements have on experiment design."

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

"For my current job it has been very helpful that I have a strong background in assay development and problem solving. Further, it is easy for me to become acquainted with new subjects, which is essential since we are a group that contributes to many different projects within the company."

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

"You need to have the endurance, a high tolerance of frustration and be able to quickly familiarize with new subjects."

Check out Irene's talk at the upcoming Career Day "Research and Development" on June 22nd 2015.

You can contact Irene by e-mail: irene.helbing@gmx.de

[»back to top](#)

Achievements by Postdocs

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

New Publications

Apostolos Menegakis & Cläre von Neubeck (DKTK Dresden/ DKTK Tübingen)

Menegakis A*, von Neubeck C*, Yaromina A, Thames H, Hering S, Hennenlotter J, Scharpf M, Noell S, Krause M, Zips D, Baumann M. (2015) γ H2AX assay in ex vivo irradiated tumour specimens: A novel method to determine tumour radiation sensitivity in patient-derived material. *Radiother Oncol.* doi: 10.1016/j.radonc.2015.03.026. [Epub ahead of print]

Lionel Larribere (G300)

Larribere L, Wu H, Novak D, Galach M, Bernhardt M, Orouji E, Weina K, Knappe N, Sachpekidis C, Umansky L, Beckhove P, Umansky V, De Schepper S, Kaufmann D, Ballotti R, Bertolotto C, Utikal J. (2015) NF1 loss induces senescence during human melanocyte differentiation in an iPSC-based model. *Pigment Cell Melanoma Res.* doi: 10.1111/pcmr.12369. [Epub ahead of print]

Heiko Weyd (D030)

Linke B, Abeler-Dörner L, Jahndel V, Kurz A, Mahr A, Pfrang S, Linke L, Krammer PH, Weyd H. (2015) The tolerogenic function of annexins on apoptotic cells is mediated by the annexin core domain. *J Immunol.* 194(11):5233-42.

New Awards & Grants

Christine Engeland (G100)

Christine Engeland obtained May 2015 a grant from the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS) for the project "Anti-tumor T cell activation mediated by oncolytic Measles virus" (3 year project, 245 000 €) within the "Erstantrag" program of the EKFS.

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

Name us your publications, awards, and grants!

Send your information to: c.breunig@dkfz.de or k.willmund@dkfz.de

Vacancies at PDN

Organizer of next Career Day

The PDN and the DKFZ Career Service plan the next Career Day on the topic of academic careers. It will be held on December 4th 2015. If you would like to develop your networking and project management skills, you will benefit from the training aspect and a personal certificate for Hands-on Project Management.

Editor of Postdoc Newsletter

From now on, we are looking for a new co-worker of the PostDoc Newsletter. If you would like to develop your networking and communication skills, this position is just right.

Supporter of PDN website

We are currently looking for someone who wants to join to support the "Design and Homepage team".

Next PDN committee meetings:

Our next PDN meeting is on **June 25th** from **11:00-12:00 am** in **H2.03.068 (different room!!!)**.

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

Career Day "Research & Development"

June 22nd 2015

Concert: 1.188 Bars against Cancer

June 20th 2015

Running Meet-up (New times!)

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the main building
(contact Octavio Espinosa)

Next PDN retreat

November 5th - 6th 2015

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

Imprint

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