

50 Years – Research for
A Life Without Cancer

newsletter

PostDoc Network

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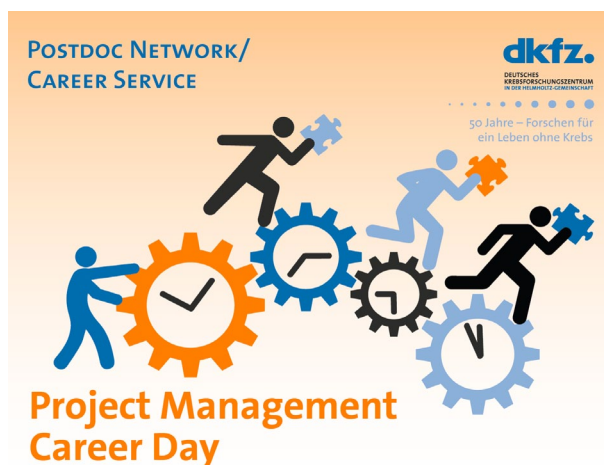
Dear PostDocs and Colleagues,

An exciting year with the 50th anniversary of the DKFZ is slowly coming to an end. During this fascinating anniversary year, the PostDoc Network continued to organize events that attracted PostDocs and colleagues. The PDN congratulates the six new PhD Student Council members and wishes them good luck for their term. We continue our close collaboration with the PhD Student Council and the DKFZ Career Service, with whom we currently co-organize the Project Management Career Day (see a brief report on page 1 of this newsletter). Additionally, Marion Gürk of the Career Service and Timo Kehl of the PDN gave us a review of the Naturejobs Career Expo in London (see page 2). The monthly PDN Welcome & Get-Togethers, organized by Hadeel Khallouf, are excellent events for every PostDoc (page 2). In this issue we also have reports about the DKFZ Open Day and a meeting with PhD students from Munich by Anna Shavinskaya, about our new Running Meetup by Thomas Wolf, Octavio Espinosa and Lionel Larribere and about the legendary "Battle of the Profs" by Heiko Weyd. Every year Fresenius organizes the Career Day "Meet the Board". Timo Kehl who joined together with three PhD students of the DKFZ this Career Day gave us his personal insight (page 5). In this newsletter we introduce two new categories: Achievements by PostDocs and "Vacancies" at PDN.

Cheers,
Christian Breunig

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„DKFZ Career Day: Project Management in Academia and Beyond” on December 5th 2014

Many scientists become professional project managers. Do you want to learn more about PM jobs in academia and industry? To find out which skills and qualifications are typically required? How to search for professional opportunities out there? And get an insight on how to achieve a fine work-life balance? Then save the date! The "DKFZ Career Day: Project Management in Academia and Beyond", will take place on December 5th 2014 at the DKFZ Communication Center. There you will have the opportunity to attend useful workshops and discussions with experts from both academia and industry! Registration is open at www.dkfz.de/careerday. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Welcome & Get-Together

Dear PostDocs & friends,

I am so glad that many of you have been regularly joining the Welcome & Get-Together events I have been organizing for over a year now and am even happier that many new participants have joined us recently. It is this networking & collaboration spirit that keeps me organizing these events and I strongly hope that this tradition will go on.

As always, I am trying to organize different activities on different days of the week so that you can join at least once in a while. In June this year, we visited the Handschuhsheimer Kerwe that was a nice occasion to try out a traditional German festival. Then, we could finally-thanks to weather cooperation! - made our long-awaited BBQ take place in July. After a little summer break in August, we got together again in September over a nice



July-Postdoc-Get-Together: BBQ on Thursday the 31st of July (© Hadeel Khallouf)

Sushi dinner. To try again some new avenue, I organized the October-Get-Together in a Korean restaurant; it was amazing to see a nice group of PostDocs coming from all over the globe & from different departments of DKFZ around one table. I hope you are having a good time in the Get-Together events and I am always happy to hear your comments & suggestions as it is thanks to you that all those events have been a success.

The **next Get-Together** will be at the Heidelberger Christmas Market/Weihnachtsmarkt on **November 24th** at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting point is in front of Hotel Ritter. Please sign up [here](#).

Hadeel Khallouf

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September-Postdoc-Get-Together: Sushi dinner on Monday the 29th of September (© Hadeel Khallouf)



October-Postdoc-Get-Together: Korean dinner on Thursday the 30th of October (© Hadeel Khallouf)

Naturejobs Career Expo 2014 in London



Timo Kehl at the Nature Jobs in London (© Timo Kehl)

Since 2006 the Naturejobs Career Expo is the UK's largest career fair and job expo for the scientific community. It was originally initiated by the Nature Publishing Group to introduce researchers to potential employers in the fields of life sciences, chemistry and medical sciences. This year's expo was the biggest ever with more than 50 exhibitors from all over the world, displaying global career opportunities in science, but also local heroes like King's College London or even the Royal Navy.

Amongst international companies and universities from all over the world, a delegation from 17 German universities, graduate schools and research organizations has been present thanks to the coordination of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). All exhibitors offered detailed information about their institutes and research groups, PhD and PostDoc programs as well as junior professorships.

Together with other partners from the Helmholtz association we had a joint Helmholtz association booth. There, representatives from the Career Service and the PostDoc Network of DKFZ were present to answer 1500 job seekers' hot questions about DKFZ's graduate and postdoctoral program and how to get one of the contested junior group leader positions.

Besides academia, the job seekers met potential employers from industry offering hundreds of genuine vacancies. Additionally, this year, a treasure hunt was initiated to ease first contact with the exhibitors and to increase the possibility of networking. The intention was to visit all exhibitors listed on the treasure hunt card to get a stamp – fully stamped cards had the chance to win great prizes, sponsored by Nature Jobs. The Naturejobs Career Expo provided a viable framework program with the conference plenary, workshop sessions and CV check services.

Jim Smith, NIMR, held the keynote lecture about building a career in biomedical science followed by outstanding panel sessions about careers in industry and academia and science communication.

The afternoon sessions were also characterized by career advice but were more focused on transferable skills, self-marketing strategies, networking tips and tricks. The session on transferable skills was given by Anna Price, Researcher development advisor within the graduate school of King's College London. Sarah Blackford, Head of Education & Public Affairs at the Society for Experimental Biology, gave a stunning talk on necessary CV skills.

After the fair, the evening was good for networking with the other DAAD delegates. We also hosted the first London Get Together for DKFZ Alumni – check out our LinkedIn Group if you are curious about our UK-based Alumni.



Timo Kehl, Marion Gürth and representatives from Helmholtz Association at the Nature Jobs in London (© Timo Kehl)

In total the portfolio was set widely and offered great opportunities for everyone, from students to experienced researchers all over Europe and beyond. For us, as members of the PostDoc Network and the Career Service of DKFZ, it was a great pleasure and honor to represent our institution and to deliver its outstanding position in the field of life sciences to interested young and experienced scientists from all over the world. Don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to receive more information or contacts from the Naturejobs Career Fair.

Timo Kehl and Marion Gürth

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Running Meetup



Thomas Wolf, Daniel Hübschmann, Kortine Kleinheinz, Anne Rademacher & Octavio Espinosa (©Thomas Wolf)

As you may already know the DKFZ organized the "Heidelberg runs for cancer" event and a DKFZ team took part in this years Heidelberg half marathon. Both turned out to be a big success and the Post Doc Network decided to organize a weekly running meet-up. This creates the opportunity for busy Post Docs to escape the lab or their computer for a while, and to get to know other researchers outside their own group. The meetup takes place **Tuesdays at 18:30** starting from the DKFZ main building. The track on Tuesdays normally ranges between 7 and 10 km. The time depends on the training level of the attendees, but mostly ranges around one hour. Sometimes we also offer an additional run on Thursdays, which is organized together with members of the "Theoretical Bioinformatics" group.

The usual summer track nicely runs along the Neckar River and under the trees, in the direction of Ladenburg/Dossenheim and comes back to DKFZ main building through the fields. In winter, in order to prevent running in darkness, we will run mainly along the Neckarwiese.

After the run we sometimes meet in Cafe Botanik for further socializing around a drink. In addition, there is the possibility to organize a monthly/infrequent run on a Sunday, with a longer track through the forests around Heidelberg. Suggestions for nice tracks in and around Heidelberg are always welcome, especially if they offer a nice way to discover Heidelberg and its surroundings. The first such event will take place on Sunday the **30th of November**. If you are interested please enter your name into the following poll:

<http://doodle.com/rg77vbbzbdkiwspr7ymi2sfb/admin#table>



The running team (here Gideon Zipprich and Octavio Espinosa) are taking several routes (e.g. along the Neckar or Neuenheimer Feld) (©Thomas Wolf)

This page will be updated regularly and also includes informations about the next weekly running meetups.

If you have questions concerning the meetup or want to be added to the running meetup mailing list, please write to one of the organizers: **Thomas Wolf** t.wolf@dkfz.de or **Octavio Espinosa** o.espinosa@dkfz.de If you would like to organise further Post Doc sports events you are welcome to do so. Just contact the PDN with your ideas. More sports groups, not just from the PDN, can be found on the Corporate Health Management Program (BGM) [homepage](#) organized by Gabriele Schulze-König. We are looking forward to seeing you at the next meetup.

Thomas Wolf, Octavio Espinosa & Lionel Larribere

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DKFZ Open Day

On the October 19th, the DKFZ opened its doors to more than 3,000 visitors. Of course, the PDN was also there and happy to be an active part of the program. We, as a very international group ourselves, represented the DKFZ PostDocs with the title “DKFZ international: Forschung verbindet”. Besides some statistics (we have employees from 78 nations at the DKFZ!), we offered a quiz with funny and earnest questions on the subject. For me, it was a great experience: some people came over to our stand in the Communication Center half an hour before the official start to answer the questions, some returned several times, some stood with us longer searching on the world map for the right answers and discussing about different countries and cultures. It was a long day, but everyone seemed to have enjoyed it - the visitors, who had a pleasant and informative day with their children and we, as a part of this success.

Anna Shavinskaya

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Kristin Rattay, Marina Laplana, Anna Shavinskaya and Hadeel Khallouf represented the DKFZ PostDocs with the title “DKFZ International: Forschung verbindet”. The booth was well attended. (© Anna Shavinskaya)

PDN meets PhD students from LMU Munich

Choosing your PostDoc position after your PhD is a very important step for a successful academic career. The decision has to be taken carefully into account and all pros and cons of the laboratories have to be considered. But how different was it for most of us! Not only the way, how and where the PostDoc begun, but also the duties and opportunities of a PostDoc position. I think, it is very important that PhD students obtain different perspectives on Postdoc functions from postdoctoral researchers with various backgrounds and at different stages of their career.

On the 5th of September, PostDocs from the PDN at DKFZ met PhD students from the Graduate School of Systemic Neurosciences (GSN-LMU) Munich with various backgrounds in Biology, Physics, Philosophy, Mathematics and Psychology, who came to visit the DKFZ. After they have got insides into the Helmholtz PhD program from Lindsay Murrells and attended a scientific talk, the PDN presented its activities and opened an informal discussion on being a PostDoc at the DKFZ. We were five PostDocs answering the questions of 15 PhD students, so it was a very lovely and informal discussion. Some questions were: “What are the differences between a PhD student and a PostDoc?”, “Is it good to change the lab immediately after completing the PhD?”, “As a PostDoc, do I have to teach?”, “What is it, what you like in being a PostDoc at the DKFZ?” We exchanged our experiences and opinions on these and many other questions and found a 40 min. discussion rather short. Finally, it was not only informative for the PhD students, but also a great opportunity for us to reflect on our careers. We will be happy to repeat it any time!

Anna Shavinskaya

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Anna Shavinskaya presented several activities of the PDN to the PhD students from Munich (© Kristin Rattay)

Fresenius Meet the Board Career Fair Review

On June 5th, 2014, roundabout 200 Students, PhDs and newcomers came to Fresenius, Bad Homburg, to participate at the Fresenius Career Day themed “Meet the Board”. Students from various disciplines came to Fresenius from all over Germany to learn more about Germany’s largest healthcare company and to find out whether their “DNA fits to Fresenius’s DNA and vice versa”.

By train, three DKFZ PhD students and I arrived in time at the headquarters and conference centre of Fresenius in Bad Homburg. We had a big welcome with subsequent registration followed by an extensive breakfast and time to relax and chat before the event itself started at 9.30 a.m.

Mr. Jäger, personnel officer in human resources, presented the welcome and introduction part and guided us through the whole day. He encouraged us to leave impressions and suggestions during the sessions, the digital generation on Facebook and twitter, for the older generation (so that’s me then) on a poster board.

Presentations were started by one of the management board members. Dr. Götz, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, and Labor Relations Director, introduced Fresenius and its four core business areas Fresenius Medical Care, Kabi, Helios and Vamed. During a great journey through the past and present of Fresenius he recommended to carefully check, wherever you apply, whether this position fits in regards to one's competences, affinity and fun at work. "You have to ask yourself, whether you would feel comfortable and you have fun at work and whether the company also suits you." "Fresenius does not want to hire and employ caretakers, Fresenius wants to employ shapers."

Followed by Dr. Götz, the CFO Mr. Sturm entered the stage and gave an impressive and also controversial talk (at least according to the discussions with some participants in the breaks). He phrased the slogan, which still sticks in my mind: "Fresenius – forward thinking healthcare".

Furthermore, Mrs. Gräppi, manager of human resources at Helios, gave a very interesting introduction into her business area of Fresenius called "Helios". This area deals with the "Helios Kliniken Group", which ranks among the largest and most medically advanced hospital groups in Europe.

After the lunch break, with some culinary highlights, all participants were separated according to their disciplines economics, engineering, informatics and life sciences. In the following 90 minutes each group had individual talks from selected speakers in the individual business areas.

After a short communication break, we had the chance to exchange with other participants and to visit one of the various booths of all different business areas of Fresenius. I decided to visit the Fresenius Medical Care booth seeking for further information about their business area. Well informed and well prepared team members of Fresenius Medical Care gave me a deeper insight in the field of dialysis, on their daily work and challenges that satisfied my thirst for knowledge and scientific curiosity.

Next, we came together for a 90 min. long lasting motivation talk by Marc Gassert, called the blond shaolin. The talk was mainly about self-discipline and mental power. Two of his slogans, which still stick in my mind, are "Not beginning something will be rewarded, but to stand it completely" and "Discipline is a weapon – use it!" The presentation was an interactive motivation talk between far eastern and western culture. By checking out the reactions of my colleagues and the other participants I realized he hit the mark. During the subsequent Get-Together with finger food and cocktails we enjoyed ourselves and we lively discussed the career day and all experiences we made with Fresenius.

Thank you Fresenius for this awesome day, full of facts and impressions all around Fresenius and last but not least the extra kick for our motivation. Maybe we will meet again soon. Conclusion from my side: This career day was definitely a glass door to Fresenius! Check out next year's "Meet the Board" event by Fresenius - the best way to get a deeper insight, if you interested in working for Germany's largest medical company.

Timo Kehl

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Fresenius Career Day "Meet the Board": Erik Dülsner (Fresenius), Frank Burkhart, Timo Kehl, Christiane Kreutzer and Rafael Josupeit (© Fresenius)



Fresenius Career Day "Meet the Board" (© Fresenius)

German Cancer Research Centerstage - The Battle of the Profs 2014

"Better than an accepted paper" / "Feels like flying" / "Never had such a great audience before" – such were the after-show exclamations of the DJ-Teams participating in the first DKFZ "Battle of the Profs-Night" at the Sommerfest this year. 4 great DJ-Teams – The "4th Floor Devils" (Hellmut Augustin/Andreas Trumpp), "Tak-gefüh!" (Ursula Klingmüller/ Jörg Langowski), the "HRR Bartenschlagerparade" (Hans-Reimer Rodewald/ Ralf Bartenschlager) and "Mr.Jaekyll & Dr. Hyde" (Oliver Jäkel/ Klaus Kopka) performed in front of an excited audience. As the first beats began to shake the distinguished DKFZ-communication center, many of the spectators became a first time ever impression of the party animals previously known as respectable division head or professor. By the time the first Prof jumped from the stage to dive into the crowd it became obvious at the latest: not only the Sommerfest party crowd on the dance floor but also the DJ-profs enjoyed the battle enthusiastically. A great thank you to the press office and Stefanie Seltsmann, who pushed not only the idea but also the Profs to make this night a most memorable event and certainly an experiment to replicate in the years to come.

Heiko Weyd



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Moments of the Battle of Profs 2014 (© Press Office DKFZ)

Achievements by PostDocs

We are happy to announce our new category in our newsletter. By pointing out new publications of Post-Docs and awards, fellowships and stipends given to them we want to promote their new achievements. So let us know about your new publications, fellowships and awards and we can promote your achievements!

New Publications

Christian Breunig (B050):

Breunig C., Mueller B.J., Umansky L., Wahl K., Hoffmann K., Lehner F., Manns M.P., Bantel H., Falk C.S. (2014) Braf and MEK inhibitors differentially regulate cell fate and microenvironment in human hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res.* 20(9):2410-23.

Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid (A010)

Cabezas-Wallscheid N., Klimmeck D., Hansson J., Lipka D.B., Reyes A., Wang Q., Weichenhan D., Lier A., von Paleske L., Renders S., Wünsche P., Zeisberger P., Brocks D., Gu L., Herrmann C., Haas S., Essers M.A., Brors B., Eils R., Huber W., Milsom M.D., Plass C., Krijgsvelde J., Trumpp A. (2014) Identification of regulatory networks in HSCs and their immediate progeny via integrated proteome, transcriptome, and DNA Methylation analysis. *Cell Stem Cell.* 15(4):507-22.

Costas Demetriades (B140):

Demetriades C., Doumpas N., and Teleman A.A. (2014) Regulation of TORC1 in response to amino acid starvation via lysosomal recruitment of TSC2. *Cell* 156(4):786-99.

Alexander Rölle (D080):

Rölle A., Pollmann J., Ewen E.M., Le V.T., Halenius A., Hengel H., Cerwenka A. (2014) IL-12-producing monocytes and HLA-E control HCMV-driven NKG2C+ NK cell expansion. *J Clin Invest.* doi: 10.1172/JCI77440

Uwe Schirmer (D015):

Schirmer U., Doberstein K., Rupp A.K., Bretz N.P., Wuttig D., Kiefel H., Breunig C., Fiegl H., Müller-Holzner E., Zeillinger R., Schuster E., Zeimet A.G., Sültmann H., Altevogt P. (2014) Role of miR-34a as a suppressor of L1CAM in endometrial carcinoma. *Oncotarget.* 5(2):462-72.

Thomas Wolf (B080)

Renner M.* , Wolf T.* , Meyer H., Hartmann W., Penzel R., Ulrich A., Lehner B., Hovestadt V., Czwan E., Egerer G., Schmitt T., Alldinger I., Renker E.K., Ehemann V., Eils R., Wardelmann E., Büttner R., Lichter P., Brors B., Schirmacher P., Mechttersheimer G. (2013) Integrative DNA methylation and gene expression analysis in high-grade soft tissue sarcomas. *Genome Biol.* 14(12):r137. * shared first authorship

New Awards & Grants**Christian Breunig (B050):**

- "Proffered Paper" Award 2014. EACR Munich 2014

Costas Demetriades (B140):

- Young Scientist Forum (YSF) travel grant from FEBS

Elham Kharazmi (C050):

- AACR-Susan G. Komen Scholar-in-Training Award (\$2,000)

New Calls

Rosario Piro (Division of Molecular Genetics) was offered an assistant professorship (Juniorprofessur) in medical bioinformatics at University Hospital Charité and Freie Universität Berlin.

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Vacancies at PDN:**Editor of PostDoc Newsletter, Co-organizer of PostDoc Retreat, Supporter of PDN website**

We greatly thank Olga Ucar for her engagement for the PDN and especially being the editor of our Newsletter. Unfortunately, Olga resigned from her duties as a member of the PDN and Editor of the Newsletter. It was a great pleasure having her in the team and we wish her all the best for her future!

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

For April 2015, we plan to have a joined Retreat for PostDocs of DKFZ and DKTK. For this event we are looking for active support. If you would like to develop your networking and project management skills by helping to organize a joined PostDoc Retreat, this position is just right. We are looking forward to hearing from you! In addition, we are looking for someone you want to join to support of website team.

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!**

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PDN: From PostDocs for PostDocs Making more of your time as a PostDoc at DKFZ!

Imprint

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