



## ***Welcome to the July edition of Alumni Monthly***

*The highlight of the month was definitely the visit of Prince William and Duchess Catherine. Together with the Management Board and the Minister President of Baden-Württemberg hundreds of colleagues welcomed the Royals. But science did not fall short either, as you can see from the press releases and highlight publications.*

*Alumni Monthly will take a summer break and the next edition will be presented to you in September.*

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## **News from the Press Office**

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**Visit of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, to the German Cancer Research Center, July 20th, 2017**



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The British Prince William and his wife, Duchess Catherine, began their Heidelberg visit on July 20 by making a stop at the German Cancer Research Center. "We are very proud that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have decided to visit the DKFZ. They have made a clear gesture which underlines the great importance of medical research for our society", said Prof. Dr. Michael Baumann, chairman and scientific chair of the DKFZ. His colleague, Prof. Dr. Josef Puchta, commercial chairman, added: "The decision to come to the DKFZ also serves to show that we are recognized internationally as a leading research institution." [read more](#)

see more [photos](#) watch the [video](#)

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**Gold medal of the Gilbert H. Fletcher Society  
for Prof. Dr. Michael Baumann**



Michael Baumann (left) und Howard Thames © Katja Storch / Universitätsklinikum Dresden

Prof. Dr. Michael Baumann receives the Gilbert H. Fletcher Society gold medal for his achievements in radiooncology. The award was presented to him at the 41st annual meeting of the research association at the OncoRay-Center in Dresden. [read more \(in German\)](#)

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## Young Investigator Award for DKFZ researcher

For his work towards developing a vaccine against brain tumors, Lukas Bunse from the DKFZ has received the Young Investigator Award of the 2017 Württemberg Cancer Award. The award comes with a budget of €15,000.

Tumor cells often exhibit gene mutations that lead to altered proteins. Lukas Bunse investigates how a tumor vaccination that specifically targets the cancer mutation can support the immune system in fighting rare types of brain cancer without harming healthy cells.

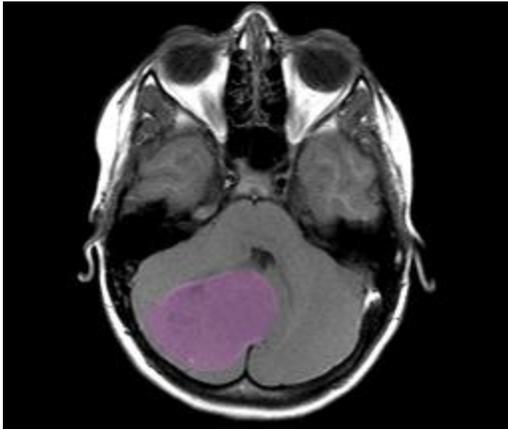
In some types of brain cancer, the tumor cells produce a uniquely altered version of a protein molecule called IDH1. In collaboration with colleagues from the DKFZ, Bunse has developed a vaccine that uses this mutated protein as a "wanted photo", thus training the immune system to fight tumor cells that exhibit the specific mutation. [read more](#)



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## Surprising genetic variety in childhood brain cancer



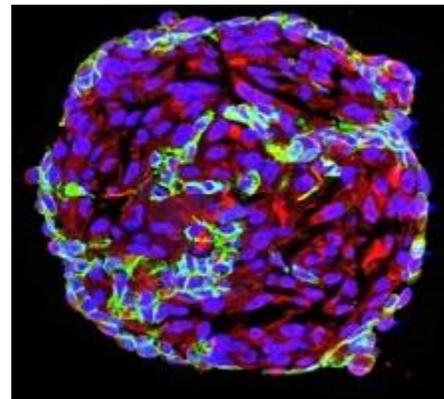
MRT-Image of a Medulloblastoma © DKFZ

An international research team led by scientists from the DKFZ and the Hopp Children's Tumor Center at the NCT Heidelberg (KiTZ) has identified new genetic alterations and mechanisms that lead to very aggressive types of childhood brain cancer. Their results, which have now been published in the journal *Nature*, will contribute to developing novel treatment approaches for previously incurable cancer cases and to targeting tumors more specifically. [read more](#)

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## How blood vessels slow down and accelerate tumor growth

Scientists from the DKFZ and Heidelberg University have discovered a new mechanism that causes faster sprouting of blood vessels. Cells of a specific type called pericytes, which are attached to the outside of fine blood vessels, are involved in this process. If a particular protein molecule is switched off, this leads to the formation of significantly more, albeit immature, vessels, the scientists now report. As a result, the tumor gets supplied better and can grow faster. [read more](#)



Co-culture of endothelial cells (green) and pericytes (red) results in spheroids which are used to study the interactions of the two cell types in 3D © Milde/DKFZ

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## €5.7 million for novel treatment approaches in pediatric brain cancer



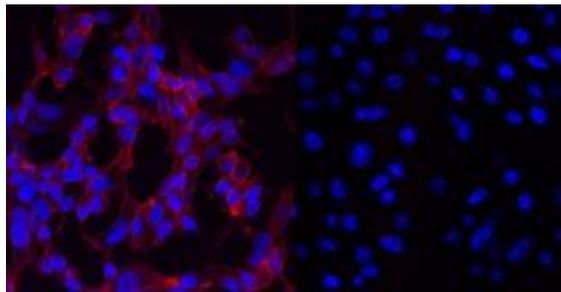
Examining tumor cells in the laboratory © Philipp Benjamin/Heidelberg University Hospital

Children with low grade brain cancer usually suffer many years of distress. An international initiative that is coordinated at the DKFZ and the Hopp Children's Tumor Center (KiTZ) at the NCT Heidelberg has now been established with the goal of changing this. Research teams from Heidelberg and London aim to gain better understanding of the biology of low grade pediatric brain tumors and to use these findings to develop novel treatment approaches. The British Brain Tumour Charity provides funds of €5.7 million to support the

project, which was launched in late June. The KiTZ at the NCT Heidelberg is a joint institution of the Heidelberg University Hospital and the DKFZ. [read more](#)

## Double imaging of prostate cancer

Scientists from the DKFZ are developing a radiopharmaceutical that visualizes prostate cancer in two different ways: Radioactive labeling facilitates detection of a tumor or its metastases in the body. At the same time, a coupled fluorescent dye helps surgeons identify and safely remove cancer tissue during surgery.

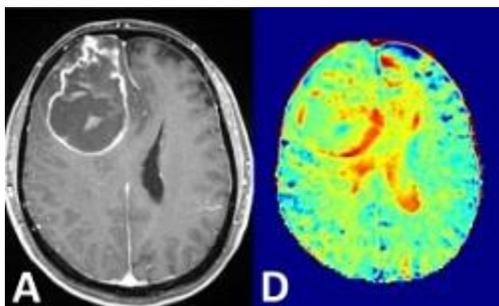


© Baranski/DKFZ

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## MRI without contrast agents? Yes, with sugar!



© Paech D, et al. T1p-weighted dynamic glucose enhanced MRI in the human brain. *Radiology* (in press). © RSNA

Scientists from the DKFZ, in collaboration with colleagues from Heidelberg University Hospital, have been able to visualize brain cancer using a novel MRI method. They use a simple sugar solution instead of conventional contrast agents, which can have side effects in the body. In magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), contrast agents are used to enhance the imaging of tissue structures. While they enhance signals in blood vessels and in spaces between cells, they do not reach the interior of the cell. Radiologists and

physicists from the DKFZ have now succeeded in employing this novel type of imaging. [read more](#)

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## 6th NCT-charity run: 4500 participants run against cancer

On July 7th 2017, more than 4500 runners participated in the 2,7 kilometer circuit, the 11-kilometer distance or the half marathon, "21-kilometers against cancer". About 300 local teams participated. 114.000 Euros had been raised. The proceedings of the 6th charity run will be contributed to innovative projects of cancer research at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) in Heidelberg.

The NCT Heidelberg is a joint institution of the DKFZ, the University Hospital



© NCT

## Highlight Publications

Selected by the Research Program Coordinators

### **The whole-genome landscape of medulloblastoma subtypes.**

Nature. 2017 Jul 19;547(7663):311-317. doi: 10.1038/nature22973.

Northcott PA, Buchhalter I, Morrissy AS, Hovestadt V, Weischenfeldt J, Ehrenberger T, Gröbner S1,10, Segura-Wang M, Zichner T, Rudneva VA, Warnatz HJ, Sidiropoulos N, Phillips AH, Schumacher S, Kleinheinz K, Waszak SM, Erkek S, Jones DTW, Worst BC, Kool M, Zapatka M, Jäger N, Chavez L, Hutter B, Bieg M, Paramasivam N, Heinold M, Gu Z, Ishaque N, Jäger-Schmidt C, Imbusch CD, Jugold A, Hübschmann D, Risch T, Amstislavskiy V, Gonzalez FGR, Weber UD, Wolf S, Robinson GW, Zhou X, Wu G2 Finkelstein D, Liu Y, Cavalli FMG, Luu B, Ramaswamy V, Wu X, Koster J, Ryzhova M, Cho YJ, Pomeroy SL, Herold-Mende C, Schuhmann M, Ebinger M, Liao LM, Mora J, McLendon RE, Jabado N, Kumabe T, Chuah E, Ma Y, Moore RA, Mungall AJ, Mungall KL, Thiessen N, Tse K, Wong T, Jones SJM, Witt O, Milde T, Von Deimling A, Capper D, Korshunov A, Yaspo ML, Kriwacki R, Gajjar A, Zhang J, Beroukhim R, Fraenkel E, Korbel JO, Brors B, Schlesner M, Eils R, Marra MA, Pfister SM, Taylor MD, Lichter P. [link to article](#)

### **Vitamin A-Retinoic Acid Signaling Regulates Hematopoietic Stem Cell Dormancy**

Cell. 2017 May 18;169(5):807-823.e19. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2017.04.018. Epub 2017 May 4.

Cabezas-Wallscheid N, Buettner F, Sommerkamp P, Klimmeck D, Ladel L, Thalheimer FB, Pastor-Flores D, Roma LP, Renders S, Zeisberger P, Przybylla A, Schönberger K, Scognamiglio R, Altamura S, Florian CM, Fawaz M, Vonficht D, Tesio M, Collier P, Pavlinic D, Geiger H, Schroeder T, Benes V, Dick TP, Rieger MA, Stegle O, Trumpp A. [link to article](#)

**Watch the video [here](#)**

### **ERAP1 overexpression in HPV-induced malignancies: A possible novel immune evasion mechanism**

OncoImmunology, in press. Published online: 20 Jun 2017.

Steinbach A, Winter J, Reuschenbach M, Blatnik R, Klevenz A, Bertrand M, Hoppe S, von Knebel Doeberitz M, Grabowska AK & Riemer AB [link to article](#)

### **Evaluation of type-specific antibodies to high risk-human papillomavirus (HPV) proteins in patients with oropharyngeal cancer.**

Oral Oncol. 2017 Jul;70:43-50. doi: 10.1016/j.oraloncology.2017.05.010. Epub 2017 May 25.

Brogliè MA, Jochum W, Michel A, Waterboer T, Foerbs D, Schoenegg R, Stoeckli SJ, Pawlita M, Holzinger D. [link to article](#)

**Succession of transiently active tumor-initiating cell clones in human pancreatic cancer xenografts**

EMBO Mol Med. 2017 Jul;9(7):918-932. doi: 10.15252/emmm.201607354.

Ball CR, Opiel F, Ehrenberg KR, Dubash TD, Dieter SM, Hoffmann CM, Abel U, Herbst F, Koch M, Werner J, Bergmann F, Ishaque N, Schmidt M, von Kalle C, Scholl C, Fröhling S, Brors B, Weichert W, Weitz J, Glimm H. [link to article](#)

**Genetic subclone architecture of tumor clone-initiating cells in colorectal cancer.**

J Exp Med. 2017 Jul 3;214(7):2073-2088. doi: 10.1084/jem.20162017. Epub 2017 Jun 1.

Giessler KM, Kleinheinz K, Huebschmann D, Balasubramanian GP, Dubash TD, Dieter SM, Siegl C, Herbst F, Weber S, Hoffmann CM, Fronza R, Buchhalter I, Paramasivam N, Eils R, Schmidt M, von Kalle C, Schneider M, Ulrich A, Scholl C, Fröhling S, Weichert W, Brors B, Schlesner M, Ball CR, Glimm H.

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## New Research Groups

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### Specialist for tumor pathology joins DKTK at the Charité Berlin



© David Capper

Prof. Dr. David Capper has been appointed as Professor for Molecular Neuropathology (W2) at the Charité Berlin since the 1st of April. As part of DKTK faculty Berlin he will investigate the genetic of brain tumors with his team.

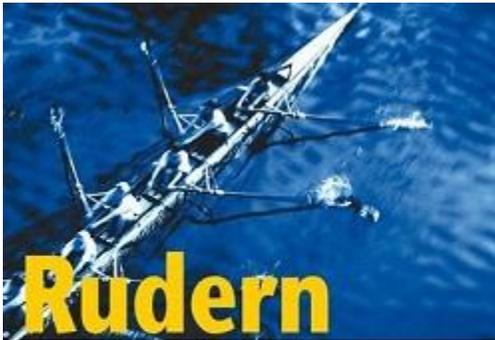
Previously, David Capper worked as senior physician of Neuropathology at the University Hospital Heidelberg and was member of the Clinical Cooperation Unit Neuropathology at the DKFZ. His research focuses on the Pathology and genetics of tumors of the central nervous system with a special focus on the development of specific diagnostic markers ("mutation-specific monoclonal antibody") and classification of brain tumors by genome-wide analysis of DNA methylation patterns. [read more](#)

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## Upcoming events

## Charity regatta - Rudern gegen Krebs (rowing against cancer)



**Rudern  
gegen  
Krebs®**

**Saturday September 9th, 2017**

**Neckarwiese, Heidelberg**

The charity event will take place in Heidelberg for the 8th time. Around 80 teams from the DKFZ, NCT, University and from companies in the region will participate in the competition that has turned out to be a local festival with more than 5000 visitors each year. The event is organized by the NCT, the Foundation „Leben mit Krebs“ and the Rudergesellschaft 1898 e.V. (RGH). [read more \(in German\)](#)

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## NCT Charity Concert - 1.174 Takte gegen Krebs Die Junge Deutsche Philharmonie



© feki.de

### **The NCT presents:**

Die Junge Deutsche Philharmonie

### **Conductor**

Jukka-Pekka Saraste

### **Solo artist**

Tzimon Barto, Klavier

### **Program**

Kaija Saariaho (\*1952)

Laterna magica für Orchester (2008)

Sergej Prokofieff (1891-1953)

Konzert für Klavier und Orchester Nr. 3 C-Dur op. 26

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Sinfonie Nr. 4 op. 29 (Das Unauslöschliche)

## **Stadthalle Heidelberg**

**September, 30th 2017**

Admission 19:00

### **Patronage:**

Theresia Bauer MdL, Minister for Science and Arts  
und Prof. Dr. Eckart Würzner Mayor of Heidelberg

**Hosted by:** Dr. Norbert Lehmann (ZDF)

**Book your tickets [here](#)**

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## **Job Openings**

### **Scientific jobs**

- 211/2017 Bioingenieur/in / Ingenieur/in Biotechnologie - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Frankfurt/Mainz
- 206/2017 Postdoc Tumor Biology - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Dresden
- 205/2017 Postdoc Bioinformatics - Bioinformatics and Omics Data Analytics Group
- 203/2017 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Freiburg
- 201/2017 Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in in der Software- Entwicklung in Voll- oder Teilzeit mit mind. 24 Std./Woche - Medizinische Informatik in der Translationalen Onkologie / Zentrales Datenmanagement NAKO-Gesundheitsstudie
- 192/2017 Bioinformatician - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Munich
- 190/2017 Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in im Bereich Medizinische Informatik - Medizinische Informatik in der Translationalen Onkologie
- 189/2017 Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in im Bereich Medizinische Informatik - Medizinische Informatik in der Translationalen Onkologie
- 168/2017 Postdoc Position - Wnt signalling in Mouse Developmental Biology - Molecular Embryology
- 166/2017 2 Postdoc Positions in translational research - Immunogenetics
- 151/2017 2 Postdoctoral Scientists - Redoxregulation
- 144/2017 Postdoctoral Scientist - Redoxregulation
- 138/2017 Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Freiburg

### **PhD studentships / Diploma theses**

- PhD Positions in Cancer Research within the International PhD Program
- 214/2017 PhD Position - Preventive Oncology
- 212/2017 PhD Student - Chronic Inflammation and Cancer
- 198/2017 PhD Student - Molecular and Cellular Oncology - Translational Oncology
- 193/2017 PhD Student - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Munich
- 192/2017 Bioinformatician - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) Munich

### **Laboratory / Engineering department**

- 208/2017 Dipl.-Ingenieur/in (FH / DH oder Bachelor) Fachrichtung Architektur - Technische Infrastruktur
- 204/2017 BTA/ MTA/ Biologielaborant/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Freiburg
- 197/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in MTA/ BTA - Heidelberger Zentrum für Personalisierte Onkologie
- 195/2017 BTA/ MTA - Krebs- und stoffwechselassoziierte Signaltransduktion
- 185/2017 Bautechniker/in Fachrichtung Hochbau - Technische Infrastruktur
- 171/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in BTA/ MTA - Molekulare Grundlagen Gastrointestinaler Tumoren
- 159/2017 BTA/ MTA/ CTA - Hochdurchsatzsequenzierung
- 154/2017 Technische/r Assistent/in in Teilzeit 50-80% - Präventive Onkologie

### **Administration**

- 215/2017 Personalentwickler/in in Teilzeit 19,75 Std./Woche - Personalabteilung, Career Service
- 210/2017 Arzt/ Ärztin in Teilzeit 20 Std./Woche - Krebsinformationsdienst
- 209/2017 Student Aid (10h/week) - Human Resources, Career Service
- 200/2017 Volljuristen/in - Stiftungsvorstand
- 199/2017 Wissenschaftssekretär/in - Vaskuläre Onkologie und Metastasierung

### **Further job offers**

- 216/2017 Student Aid (10h/week flextime) - Molecular Oncology of Gastrointestinal Tumor
- 207/2017 Studienassistent/in der NAKO Gesundheitsstudie in Teilzeit 19,75 Std./Woche - Epidemiologie von Krebserkrankungen
- 202/2017 Fachinformatiker/in in der Software- und Datenbank- Entwicklung und Systemadministration in Voll- oder Teilzeit mit mind. 24 Std./Woche - Medizinische Informatik in der Translationalen Onkologie / Zentrales Datenmanagement NAKO-Gesundheitsstudie
- 194/2017 Studentische Hilfskraft im Studienzentrum Saarbrücken der NAKO Gesundheitsstudie in Teilzeit 40 Std./Monat - Epidemiologie von Krebserkrankungen
- 174/2017 IT-Fachkraft in Teilzeit 50% - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Freiburg
- 173/2017 Klinische/r Dokumentar/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Heidelberg

[link to job openings](#)

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## **Alumni Matters**

**DKFZ Alumnus Dr. Ignacio Guillermo Espinoza Bornscheuer visits Heidelberg**



Dr. Ignacio Guillermo Espinoza Bornscheuer, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Physics of the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago de Chile is the second DKFZ Alumnus who was elected for a short-term stay through the "HAIreconnect" program of the University of Heidelberg.

He visited Prof. Christian Karger, Head of the Research Group Applied Medical Radiation Physics at the DKFZ, with whom he has been conducting research projects since he left the DKFZ in 2013. Dr.

Espinoza also collaborates within the frame of the cooperation between the DKFZ and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

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## Alumni Associations sponsor summer school participation in Rehovot, Israel

Sending talented high school graduates to the "Dr. Bessie F. International Summer Science Institute", a summer school in Rehovot, Israel, has a long tradition among the extracurricular opportunities the Life-Science Lab offers.

In 2017, the Alumni Associations' Prize (founded by Alumni DKFZ Heidelberg and Alumni of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab) was awarded to Irina Blank enabling her to take part in this program.



*Irina Blank, left, Barbara Janssens Alumni DKFZ, Marius Schwabenland Alumni Life-Science Lab © DKFZ*

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## DKFZ establishes Helmholtz Career Development Center for Researchers



© DKFZ

The DKFZ [Career Service](#) received funding of 150.000 Euros per year from the "Helmholtz Initiative and Networking Fund", to establish one of three Helmholtz Career Development Centers for Researchers (HCDCR).

The new Career Center will cooperate with

the DKFZ Postdoc Program, as an extension of the existing PhD Career Service, which offers one-to-one career guidance, trainings and career networks. During the three years of funding (and after positive evaluation up to 5 years with a total budget of 1.5 Million Euros) the center will develop a competence assessment software to support young researchers in creating and managing their personal career development plan.

The self-assessment of skills and interests will help to define career options and appropriate trainings within the postdoctoral career development portfolio, which is based on career paths taken by [DKFZ Alumni](#) in academia and beyond.

Please find the Helmholtz Association Press Release [here](#)

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## US Alumni get-together at the annual GAIN conference August 25th-27th in San Francisco

From August 25th to August 27th the German Academic International Network "GAIN" organizes an annual conference where scientists from Germany exchange views with numerous representatives from German science, politics and industry. Participants come from all scientific disciplines and currently work at leading universities and research facilities in the US and Canada.



The conference consists of panel discussions, workshops and lectures on international science and career opportunities in Germany. Prof. Dr. Stefan Joos (Scientific Manager DKTK) will contribute in a workshop on "New career perspectives in medical translational research". At the extensive Talent Fair, where Dr. Philipp Gebhardt (DKFZ Postdoc Program Manager) will represent DKFZ, the participants can find out about specific funding and employment opportunities in Germany, as well as contacts with research institutes, academic organizations and universities.

On the evening of August 25th (8 p.m.) Prof. Dr. Stefan Joos and Dr. Philipp Gebhardt will host a **get-together for DKFZ Alumni** attending the conference or currently living in the area. Interested Alumni can register via sending an email to [meet-alumni@dkfz-heidelberg.de](mailto:meet-alumni@dkfz-heidelberg.de) and will be provided with further details. Link to the [conference](#)

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**Stay Connected**

## Join the Alumni Association

Alumni members benefit from an attractive range of activities:

- Alumni Monthly electronic newsletter reporting on recent developments at the DKFZ
- Publication of Alumni Magazine reporting on Alumni activities
- Eligibility for a DKFZ Alumni email address [your.name@alumni.dkfz.de](mailto:your.name@alumni.dkfz.de)
- Biennial General Alumni Meeting and Scientific Symposium, including travel grants

All current and former DKFZ colleagues are welcome to join. Please register at

[www.dkfz.de/en/alumni](http://www.dkfz.de/en/alumni)

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## Join DKFZ Connect

Join more than 1900 colleagues on DKFZ Connect, the online platform for networking and mentoring between former and current employees, including events and job postings. You can register per email or easily sync your profile with social media on [www.dkfz-connect.de](http://www.dkfz-connect.de)



The image shows a promotional banner for DKFZ Connect. At the top left is the DKFZ logo and the website address [www.dkfz-connect.de](http://www.dkfz-connect.de). Below this is a blue banner that says "Welcome to DKFZ Connect" over a photograph of a modern building. Underneath the photo are four icons representing different features: two people (Re-connect), a speech bubble (Give back), a globe (Advance), and a person (Link & Sync). To the right of these icons is a "JOIN NOW" button with social media icons for LinkedIn, Facebook, and Email.

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- Career Network
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- Jobs

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## Imprint

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Research for a Life without Cancer