



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

*Every two years the members of the Alumni Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum Heidelberg e. V. come together at a General Assembly to discuss the works of the association, to elect new board members and to discuss future projects.*

*All members of the **Alumni Association** are cordially invited to join the **General Assembly on June 7th, 2018**, in the afternoon. A formal invitation will follow soon.*

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### **News from the Press Office**

#### **ERC Advanced Grants for Hellmut Augustin and Christof Niehrs**

The European Research Council ERC's Advanced Grants promote visionary projects of fundamental research. This year, Hellmut Augustin (University of Heidelberg and DKFZ) and Christof Niehrs (University of Mainz and DKFZ) received the prestigious funding.



Hellmut Augustin © DKFZ

One of this year's Grants goes to **Hellmut Augustin**, who heads the Department of Vascular Oncology and Metastasis, which is located at the Mannheim Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg and at the DKFZ.

Augustin's ERC project "AngioMature" focuses on endothelial cells that line the inside of all blood vessels. When passing into adulthood, endothelial cells enter a resting, "quiescent" state, but can reversibly switch to an activated state. For our health it is crucial to maintain a quiescent and organically differentiated layer of endothelial cells in the vessels. Excessive or misdirected activation of endothelial cells can lead to life-threatening diseases - from sepsis to atherosclerosis to cancer. [read more](#)

For the second time, **Christof Niehrs** receives the prestigious ERC Advanced Grant: The developmental biologist is the founding director of the Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Mainz and also heads the Department of Molecular Embryology at the DKFZ.

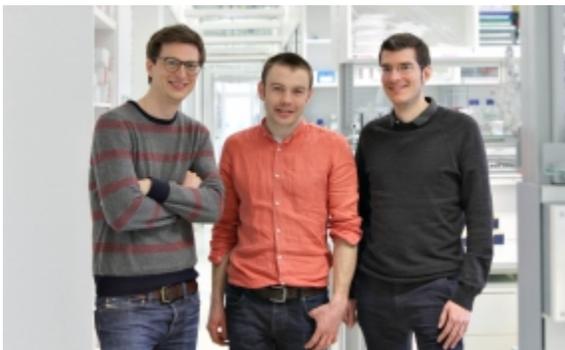
All cells use epigenetic mechanisms to ensure that the right genes are active at the right time. One of the most important epigenetic control mechanisms is that the cell chemically marks its genome in certain sites - with small methyl groups - and thus shuts down the gene in question. To reactivate it, the label must be removed by DNA methylases. How this process is controlled, is still poorly understood. [read more](#)



Christof Niehrs © DKFZ

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## Double success for Heidelberg stem cell researchers



Simon Raffel, Lars Velten and Simon Haas © Jutta Jung/DKFZ

Two awards at once, both carrying high monetary prizes, go to young researchers from the Heidelberg Institute for Stem Cell Research and Experimental Medicine (HI-STEM) at the DKFZ: Simon Raffel will receive the 2018 Walter Schulz Prize for his discovery how misregulated breakdown of amino acids in leukemia stem cells promotes blood cancer. Simon Haas will share the 2018 Otto Schmeil Prize with his colleague Lars Velten from EMBL. The two stem cell researchers have jointly demonstrated that the

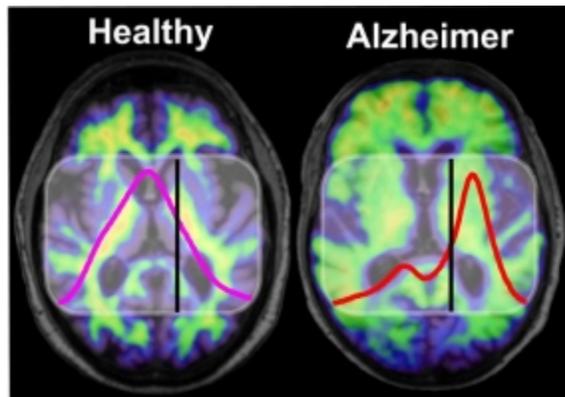
development of blood cells in the bone marrow follows very different paths from what scientists have assumed up to now. [read more](#)

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## Blood test indicates risk of developing Alzheimer's disease

A newly developed blood test may indicate Alzheimer's disease on average eight years before the clinical diagnosis. This was demonstrated by scientists from the Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), the DKFZ and the Saarland Cancer Registry with a large population-based cohort study from the Saarland.

Joint press release of Ruhr University Bochum and DKFZ. [read more](#)



Pathological deposits of amyloid-beta in the brain of people with Alzheimer's disease can be visualized using amyloid-PET (right). Healthy and pathologically folded amyloid beta proteins absorb infrared light differently. In Alzheimer's patients, there is a frequency shift below the threshold level compared to healthy subjects. This is detected by the new blood test. © K. Gerwert, A. Nabers / RUB

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## Breast cancer therapy: All clear for the heart



© Chombosan, Fotolia

Many breast cancer therapies cause damage to the heart. However, in the largest study of its kind so far, scientists from the DKFZ in Heidelberg have now shown that the risk of death from heart disease in breast cancer patients following radiotherapy or chemotherapy is no higher than it is among the average population. Good risk management in the hospitals as well as control screenings at short intervals seem to make up for elevated risks. [read more](#)

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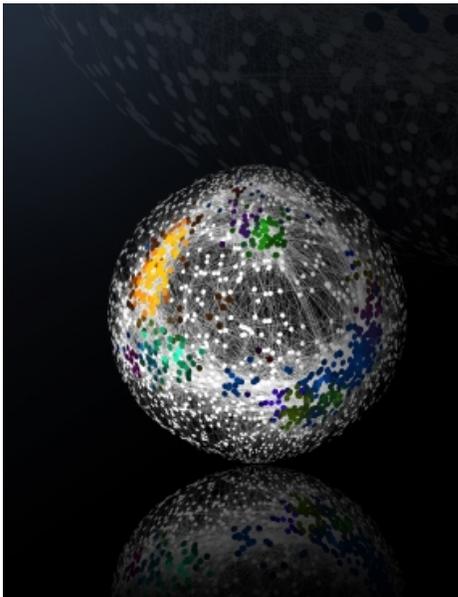
## Alcohol: redefined upper limit for low-risk consumption

Consuming regularly more than 100 grams of alcohol per week shortens life, according to the results of an international research consortium published in the latest issue of the journal "Lancet". Those who consistently consume more than two liters of beer or a bottle of wine per week risk more strokes, deadly aneurysms and heart failure, and a higher overall mortality. [read more](#)



© Gina Sanders, Fotolia

## Cancer therapy: An interaction map of genes shows the best targets



© Benedikt Rauscher/DKFZ

Most genes are team players. Only when interacting with other genes can they perform properly. Scientists from the DKFZ have now found a possibility to exploit this for the development of new cancer therapies. They generate maps of genetic interactions in cancer cells. These maps can then be used to determine the sites where it would be most effective to interfere with the interplay of cancer genes. [read more](#)

### Highlight publications

#### **DNA methylation-based classification of central nervous system tumours.**

[Nature](#). 2018 Mar 22;555(7697):469-474. doi: 10.1038/nature26000. Epub 2018 Mar 14.  
Capper D, Jones DTW, Sill M, Hovestadt V, Schrimpf D, Sturm D, Koelsche C, Sahm F, Chavez L, Reuss DE, Kratz A, Wefers AK, Huang K, Pajtler KW, Schweizer L, Stichel D, Olar A, Engel NW, Lindenberg K, Harter PN, Braczynski AK, Plate KH, Dohmen H, Garvalov BK, Coras R, Hölsken A, Hewer E, Bewerunge-Hudler M, Schick M, Fischer R, Beschorner R, Schittenhelm J, Staszewski O, Wani K, Varlet P, Pages M, Temming P, Lohmann D, Selt F, Witt H, Milde T, Witt O, Aronica E, Giangaspero F, Rushing E, Scheurlen W, Geisenberger C, Rodriguez FJ, Becker A, Preusser M, Haberler C, Bjerkvig R, Cryan J, Farrell M, Deckert M, Hench J, Frank S, Serrano J, Kannan K, Tzirigos A, Brück W, Hofer S, Brehmer S, Seiz-Rosenhagen M, Hänggi D, Hans V, Rozsnoki S, Hansford JR, Kohlhof P, Kristensen BW, Lechner M, Lopes B, Mawrin C, Ketter R, Kulozik A, Khatib Z, Heppner F, Koch A, Jouvet A, Keohane C, Mühleisen H, Mueller W, Pohl U, Prinz M, Benner A, Zapatka M, Gottardo NG, Driever PH, Kramm CM, Müller HL, Rutkowski S, von Hoff K, Frühwald MC, Gnekow A, Fleischhack G, Tippelt S, Calaminus G, Monoranu CM, Perry A, Jones C, Jacques TS, Radlwimmer B, Gessi M, Pietsch T, Schramm J, Schackert G, Westphal M, Reifenberger G, Wesseling P, Weller M, Collins VP, Blümcke I, Bendszus M, Debus J, Huang A, Jabado N, Northcott PA, Paulus W, Gajjar A, Robinson GW, Taylor MD, Jaunmuktane Z, Ryzhova M, Platten M, Unterberg A, Wick W, Karajannis MA, Mittelbronn M, Acker T, Hartmann C, Aldape K, Schüller U, Buslei R, Lichter P, Kool M, Herold-Mende C, Ellison DW, Hasselblatt M, Snuderl M, Brandner S, Korshunov A, von Deimling A, Pfister SM.  
[Link to article](#)

#### **Single cell polarity in liquid phase facilitates tumour metastasis.**

[Nat Commun](#). 2018 Feb 28;9(1):887. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-03139-6.  
Anna Lorentzen, Paul F. Becker, Jan Kosla, Massimo Saini, Kathrin Weidele, Paolo Ronchi, Corinna Klein, Monika J. Wolf, Felix Geist, Bastian Seubert, Marc Ringelhan, Daniela Mihic-Probst, Knud Esser, Marko Roblek, Felix Kuehne, Gaia Bianco, Tracy O'Connor, Quentin Müller,

Kathleen Schuck, Sebastian Lange, Daniel Hartmann, Saskia Spaich, Olaf Groß, Jochen Utikal, Sebastian Haferkamp, Martin R. Sprick, Amruta Damle-Vartak, Alexander Hapfelmeier, Norbert Hüser, Ulrike Protzer, Andreas Trumpp, Dieter Saur, Nachiket Vartak, Christoph A. Klein, Bernhard Polzer, Lubor Borsig & Mathias Heikenwalder

[Link to article](#)

### **Hepatitis D Virus replication is sensed by MDA5 and induces IFN- $\beta$ / $\lambda$ responses in hepatocytes.**

*J Hepatol.* 2018 Mar 7. pii: S0168-8278(18)30143-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2018.02.021. [Epub ahead of print]

Zhang Z, Filzmayer C, Ni Y, Sültmann H, Mutz P, Hiet MS, Vondran FWR, Bartenschlager R, Urban S.

[Link to article](#)

### **HBV Bypasses the Innate Immune Response and Does Not Protect HCV From Antiviral Activity of Interferon.**

*Gastroenterology.* 2018 Feb 1. pii: S0016-5085(18)30112-4. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2018.01.044. [Epub ahead of print]

Mutz P, Metz P, Lempp FA, Bender S, Qu B, Schöneweis K, Seitz S, Tu T, Restuccia A, Frankish J, Dächert C, Schusser B, Koschny R, Polychronidis G, Schemmer P, Hoffmann K, Baumert TF, Binder M, Urban S, Bartenschlager R.

[Link to article](#)

### **Clonal selection drives protective memory B cell responses in controlled human malaria infection.**

*Sci Immunol.* 2018 Feb 16;3(20). pii: eaap8029. doi: 10.1126/sciimmunol.aap8029.

Murugan R, Buchauer L, Triller G, Kreschel C, Costa G, Pidelaserra Martí G, Imkeller K, Busse CE, Chakravarty S, Sim BKL, Hoffman SL, Levashina EA, Kremsner PG, Mordmüller B, Höfer T, Wardemann H.

[Link to article](#)

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## **New service unit**

### **Jan-Philipp Mallm, head of new Open Lab for single cell sequencing**



*Dr. Jan-Philipp Mallm*

Single cell sequencing (sc-seq) technologies are evolving fast and become more and more important for many research groups at the DKFZ. To address this need, the DKFZ founded the single cell open lab (scOpenLab, cost center W192), which started operation in January 2018, with the generous support by DKFZ-HIPO providing funding for the scOpenLab staff.

The lab is headed by Jan-Philipp Mallm and is located in the Bioquant Center. The scOpenLab offers assisted access to instrumentation for processing the cells and preparing the libraries for sequencing to all DKFZ groups. [Homepage](#)

## Upcoming events

### SAVE THE DATE



### General Assembly of the Alumni Association

Thursday, June 7th, 2018, in the afternoon

Detailed information will be sent to all members of the Alumni Association shortly.

### Clinical Research Career Day

Friday, June 8th, 2018, 09:00

#### DKFZ Communication Center

The Career Day will mainly focus on the key jobs involved and their respective functions, as well as career entry points. DKFZ Alumni will be invited to talk about their transition and current jobs in short talks and round tables. There will also be workshops the day before.

Registration opening soon at [www.dkfz.de/en/career-service](http://www.dkfz.de/en/career-service)

See the preliminary program on [DKFZ Connect](#)



**dkfz.**  
GERMAN  
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER  
Research for a life without cancer

**CAREER DAY**  
*Clinical Research*

June 08, 2018  
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)

**SAVE THE DATE**

Short Talks / Workshops / Discussions

- Clinical Trial Management
- Project Management
- Medical Affairs
- Medical Writing
- Drug Safety
- Quality Control



Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (DKFZ) | Im Neuenheimer Feld 280 | 69123 Heidelberg

### Mildred Scheel Lectureship

### “Breast Cancer Risk Model Requirements for Counseling, Prevention, and Screening”



© NCI

Monday, June 18th, 2018, 13:00

DKFZ Communication Center, Lecture Hall

Prof. Dr. Ruth Pfeiffer, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, NIH, HHS, Bethesda, MD, US

[registration here](#)

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## Summer School in Translational Cancer Research



**October 8 - 12, 2018 in Albufeira, Portugal**

### Topics

Overview / Innovative Aspects in Cancer Biology  
Research Areas Driving the Preventive and Clinical Research  
Bridging Preclinical and Preventive/Clinical Research  
Clinical and Late Translational Cancer Research  
Cancer Science Policy and Health Economy  
Drug development  
Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy

[more information here](#)

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## DKFZ Conference on Preventive Oncology will be repeated in 2 years



Dear colleagues,  
dear participants,

Building on the great success and seizing the suggestion of many conference participants we are happy to announce that the DKFZ Conference on Preventive Oncology will be repeated in 2 years together with a special workshop organized by PROBASE, the German prostate cancer screening study.

Further information will follow within the next couple of months.

Kind regards,

Prof. Michael Baumann  
Chairman and Scientific Director  
of DKFZ

Prof. Peter Albers  
PROBASE, spokesperson



## Job openings

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### Application is now open for the International PhD Program at the DKFZ – Deadline 31st May 2018



© DKFZ

We are very happy to share with you the new movie in which Robin, Sri, Felix and Calvin introduce the PhD Program and share their experiences of what it is like to be part of the PhD community at the DKFZ. We'd greatly appreciate if you could share the links with students and scientists who you think would be interested in the program:

[link to movie - youtube](#)

[link to movie - facebook](#)

More information about the program can be found at [www.dkfz.de/phd](http://www.dkfz.de/phd).

Next application deadline is 31st May 2018.

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#### Scientific jobs

- 079/2018 Postdoc - Vascular control of adipose tissue metabolism - Vascular Signaling and Cancer
- 077/2018 Postdoctoral Position Cancer Immunotherapy - Joint Immunotherapeutics Laboratory
- 076/2018 Bioinformatician - Translational control and metabolism
- 075/2018 Postdoc - Translational control and metabolism
- 066/2018 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) München
- 063/2018 Postdoc - Radiooncology / Radiobiology
- 059/2018 Postdoctoral Scientist / Doctoral Student - Applied Functional Genomics
- 054/2018 Postdoc - Partner site Dresden of the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT)
- 050/2018 Postdoc - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) München

#### PhD studentships

- PhD Positions in Cancer Research within the International PhD Program
- 084/2018 PhD Student - Partner site Dresden of the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT)
- 074/2018 Naturwissenschaftler/in / Ingenieur/in / Informatiker/in der/die an einer Promotion auf dem Gebiet der Computertomographie (CT) mit Schwerpunkt Bildregistrierung und Bildverarbeitung interessiert ist - Röntgenbildgebung und Computertomographie (CT)
- 073/2018 PhD Student - Structural and functional analysis of hepatic endothelial vs. hepatocyte heterogeneity at the single cell level - Vascular Oncology and Metastasis
- 059/2018 Postdoctoral Scientist / Doctoral Student - Applied Functional Genomics
- 049/2018 PhD Student - German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) München

### Laboratory / Engineering department

- 085/2018 Technische/r Assistent/in (MTLA / BTA) - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Dresden
- 083/2018 Technische/r Assistent/in - Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Berlin
- 065/2018 Technische/r Assistent/in - Angewandte Funktionelle Genomik
- 055/2018 Research Technician - Translational control and metabolism

### Administration

- 060/2018 Lizenzmanager/in - Stabsstelle Technologietransfer
- 048/2018 2 Pädagogen/innen mit naturwissenschaftlichem Schwerpunkt - 1 Vollzeitstelle und 1 Teilzeitstelle mit 19,75 Std./Woche - Krebsinformationsdienst / Life-Science Lab
- 043/2018 Volljurist/in - 1 Vollzeitstelle oder 2 Teilzeitstellen mit 19,75 Std./Woche - Stiftungsvorstand

### Further job offers

- 086/2018 Student Aid (10h/week) - Human Resources, Career Service
- 082/2018 Meister/in / Techniker/in Elektrotechnik mit Schwerpunkt Gebäudeautomation - Technische Infrastruktur
- 070/2018 2 Studienassistenten/innen -eine Vollzeitstelle und eine 50%-Stelle- - Epidemiologie von Krebserkrankungen, AG NAKO Gesundheitsstudie
- 069/2018 Elektroniker/in Fachrichtung Betriebstechnik oder vergleichbar für die Elektrowerkstatt - Technische Infrastruktur
- 067/2018 Studienassistent in Teilzeit 19,75 Std./Woche - Präventive Onkologie
- 064/2018 Studentische Hilfskraft in Teilzeit 83 Std./Monat - Radiologie
- 057/2018 Studentische Hilfskraft in Teilzeit 40 Std./Monat - Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
- 045/2018 Medizinische Dokumentare - Nationales Centrum für Tumorerkrankungen
- 039/2018 2 Datenmanager/innen -eine Vollzeitstelle und eine 50%-Stelle- - NCT Studienzentrale

[link to job openings](#)

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## Alumni matters

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### DKFZ at the BCF Career Fair in Utrecht & DKFZ Alumni Get-Together in the Netherlands

Thursday, 24th May, 2018

#### Utrecht or Amsterdam

The DKFZ will be present with a stand at the BCF Career Fair in Utrecht on Thursday, 24th May 2018. For those of you in the area, Franziska Schmidt from the DKFZ International PhD Program would be delighted to meet you for an Alumni Get-Together on the evening of 24th May. If you're interested in joining other DKFZ alumni for an informal dinner, [please let us know by 15th May](#) by email to [meet-alumni@dkfz.de](mailto:meet-alumni@dkfz.de). Please also let us know where you are situated



and we'll find a location that is easy to reach for everyone, e.g. in Utrecht or Amsterdam.

You might also be interested in attending the BCF Career Event which is the largest career fair for Life Sciences, Chemistry, Food and Pharma in the Netherlands. For more info, please visit [www.bcfcareerevent.nl](http://www.bcfcareerevent.nl).

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## Re-connecting with Alumni at the AACR Reception in Chicago



Amelie Boichard UCSD, Moores Cancer Center © Jürgen Berger, DKFZ

On Sunday, 15th April 2017 the DKFZ Management Board invited DKFZ alumni, cooperation partners from science and industry, as well as other DKFZ friends to an evening reception on the occasion of the annual AACR Meeting 2018 in Chicago. More than 80 invited guests met at the Sheraton Grand Chicago. Prof. Michael Baumann

warmly welcomed all guests to a relaxed evening with snacks, beverages and inspiring conversations.

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## DKFZ exhibiting at the AACR Meeting 2018 in Chicago



"Meet the Scientist" @AACR – Prof. Klaus Pantel (Univ. Hospital Eppendorf), Prof. Andreas Trumpp (DKFZ), Prof. Claudia Schöll (DKFZ), Prof. Christoph Peters (University Freiburg), Prof. Bernd Pichler (University Hospital Tübingen), Prof. Manfred Jung (University Freiburg) (left to right) © Jürgen Berger, DKFZ

The DKFZ, cooperation partner of the governmental initiative "Research in Germany" (RiG), presented general information about DKFZ, DTK and NCT as well as career opportunities to interested visitors at booth No. 3706 (RiG) during this year's exhibition at the AACR Meeting 2018 in Chicago (14th – 18th April). More than 350 visitors informed themselves at the booth, about 50 from them joined the "Meet the scientist"-

event on Tuesday, 17th April. 15 DKFZ scientist contributed to the scientific program of the world's largest cancer research meeting by giving talks and presenting posters.

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## Visit of alumnus Dr. Ioannis Iliopoulos at the DKFZ

Dr. Ioannis Iliopoulos, Assistant Professor at the University of Crete, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Basic Sciences paid a visit to the DKFZ after 10 years. After a tour through the new buildings he was deeply impressed with the development of the Center.

He is co-organizing an international conference on Bioinformatics and would love to meet DKFZ colleagues there:



### Hellenic Bioinformatics 11 • 2018

15-18 November 2018 • TCH | Thessalonica | Greece

#### Genome informatics, precision medicine & clinical omics — in a world of data economies

about Elixir • biodiversity • bioinformatics • bioprospecting • computational biology • enzyme discovery • genomics • metabolic engineering • microbiome • pharmacogenomics • phylogeny • structural genomics • synthetic biology • systems biology • text mining

[List of speakers and registration](#)

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## Scientific news from our Alumni

This new section of Alumni Monthly wants to give more visibility to the scientific work of our Alumni.

Send us YOUR news on excellent publications, awards, promotions, new cooperations with DKFZ colleagues etc. and we will share them in this newsletter.

Send your info to [susanne.schunk@dkfz.de](mailto:susanne.schunk@dkfz.de)

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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
- Invitations to social events and excursions
- one-year LinkedIn Premium for free

All current and former DKFZ colleagues are welcome to join. Please register at [www.dkfz.de/en/alumni](http://www.dkfz.de/en/alumni)



### Join DKFZ Connect

Join more than 2500 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)

### Imprint

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