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Dresden, 9. Oktober 2020

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

today there is only one point in this mail, but a rather important one, and one that is central to the future shaping of university life.

The Covid19 pandemic poses a great challenge to our university operations - as we already experienced last semester: Health protection must be guaranteed and at the same time we want to return to as much face-to-face teaching as possible. A major obstacle in this respect are fundamental questions about the spread of the virus and the associated safety and distance concepts, which are currently still unresolved.

For the coming semester, we have already been able to make a whole series of face-to-face exercises possible in the first and third semesters, but in the long term, we want to and must also return from the digital space to the lecture halls with the lectures. For this, it is essential to know how many people we can occupy lecture halls with without neglecting health protection.

For the same question with regard to the operation of schools, the Carl Gustav Carus University Hospital conducted a study that has made a significant contribution to resuming normal school operations. The university management of the TU Dresden will now prepare a corresponding study for the lecture hall operation at the TU Dresden under the title "**CampusCoviDD19 - Effect of the number of persons in lecture halls on the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among students and teachers**" for the winter semester 2020/21. Lectures will be held in the HSZ/AUDI with 100 (status of the current distance concept of the TUD) as well as with 200 participants (1.5m distance rule according to the Saxon Corona Regulation).

The study is carried out in cooperation with the SARS-CoV-2 study team of the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus within the framework of lectures organised by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

For the study, attendance lectures are offered in five courses of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering:

- **Technical thermodynamics** in the 3rd semester (200 participants)
- **Machine dynamics** in the 5th semester (100 participants)

Postal address (letters)

TU Dresden, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
01062 Dresden

Postal address (parcels etc.)

TU Dresden, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Helmholtzstrasse 10, 01069 Dresden

Visitor address

Helmholtzstrasse 5
Zeuner Building, first
floor



Access

Side entrance
George-Bähr-Str. 3c,
marked. Parking spaces
in the inner courtyard

Internet

<http://tu-dresden.de/mw>
No access for
electronically signed and
encrypted documents



- **Measurement and automation technology 1** in the 5th semester (200 participants)
- **Process thermodynamics/reaction technology** in the 5th semester (100 participants)
- **Production and logistics** in the 5th semester (100 participants)

This means that we can also offer you a whole range of classroom courses in the 5th semester!

A few words about the course of the study and the boundary conditions:

- **Participation in the study is absolutely voluntary!**
- All teaching contents of the lectures are provided both synchronously (stream) and asynchronously (video) in digital form!
- This means that there **are no disadvantages for you if you do not wish to attend the face-to-face events!**
- If you participate in the study, we assume that you regularly attend the face-to-face lectures, otherwise the success of the study would be jeopardised or a place that someone else would have liked to take would remain vacant - unless there are special circumstances (illness or similar).
- During the study, blood samples for the detection of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 will be taken from all participants at four points in time (in the first weeks after the start of the semester, before and after the Christmas holidays and in the last week of lectures).
- The blood sample is taken either by mobile teams from the Corona Study Centre or in the study outpatient clinic at the University Hospital.
- In addition, the following data is collected by means of a questionnaire:
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Pre-existing illness
 - Regular medication
 - Known personal history of SARS-CoV-2 infection or SARS-CoV-2 infection in a household
 - household size
 - Postcode of the place of residence
 - Travel activity
 - Frequency of attendance of face-to-face events in the lecture hall
- Study participants can of course receive their own test result (result of their own SARS-CoV2 serology).
- The contact details of the enrolment will be passed on to the Corona Study Centre to contact for clarification and registration of the study consent.

- In order to avoid a mix of study participants and for contact tracing, the presence of participants at the attendance events is recorded by attendance lists. These are destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations 14 days after the end of the lecture period.
- Registration for the face-to-face courses is done in the Opal courses of the above-mentioned events in a **separate enrolment "CampusCoviDD19 Study - Enrolment for face-to-face course"**. These registrations will be activated **today at 18:00 (thermodynamics from Monday)**.

More detailed - and medically more precise ;-) - you will find information in the enclosed information sheet.

In the ideal case, the end result would be that the development would be the same for the 100 and 200 persons lectures - then we could work with considerably more people/lecture hall in the summer and thus also offer more lectures in attendance.

An urgent request in this context: I know that we all have a strong urge to return to face-to-face teaching. Nevertheless, please **consider carefully whether you want to take part in the study** - especially if you have any previous illnesses - naturally the risk of infection can be higher in a lecture hall that is twice as crowded (the question of whether this is the case is precisely the subject of the study, and until the results are available we can only hope that it is not higher)!

What else is - and remains - important?

- All **applications to the Examination Office** can still be submitted by e-mail.
- The **submission of scientific theses will** continue to take place exclusively via the TUD deadline letterbox (<https://tud.link/4and>)!

And as always: If you have any questions or concerns in the entire Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de and please use your TUD mail address without exception (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

That was a long email, but the subject is also complex - and important.

So far so good at the moment,
stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach