

EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

11 May 2016

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

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DEAR READERS,

TU Dresden’s 5,000 international students are particularly important to us. In order for them to continue to feel at home in Dresden, a “contact point for victims of xenophobia” is to be set up. The target group consists of students who feel insulted, humiliated or threatened and are seeking advice and help. The contact point can be reached via this e-mail address: we-care@tu-dresden.de. The office will be staffed from the middle of May. A telephone hotline is in preparation.

EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE: TU DRESDEN INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION

TU Dresden will again take part in the upcoming round of the Federal Government’s [Excellence Initiative](#) that will run from 2019 onwards. This applies for both lines of funding: with proposals for Clusters of Excellence and for the University of Excellence title.

Since the “Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung” (agreement between the federal government and federal states) of 22 April, TUD can also expect the currently funded DIGS-BB Graduate School, the two Clusters of Excellence – cfaed and CRTD – and the Institutional Strategy to receive bridge financing for two years, that is until the end of 2019. The timetable of the new round of the Excellence Initiative sets out that outlines for proposals for the Clusters of Excellence should be submitted by April 2017. Full proposals have to be drawn up by February 2018 for cluster outlines that have been assessed positively. A decision regarding the proposals for clusters is planned for December 2018 to enable the Clusters of Excellence to start at the beginning of 2019. The full proposals of the concepts of excellence will then be submitted in February 2019.

Both the line of funding for Clusters of Excellence and that for the Universities of Excellence are no longer to be tailored exclusively to research. Instead, research-oriented teaching, research infrastructures and the transfer of ideas and knowledge are also to be eligible for funding.

TWO THIRDS OF STAFF MEMBERS TAKE POSITIVE VIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

A total of 1,623 members of staff and 1,400 students took part in an online survey at the beginning of the year regarding how well-known and effective [Institutional Strategy](#) measures at TUD are.

Altogether, two thirds of the staff took a positive view of the continuing development of TU Dresden through the Institutional Strategy and its measures. Although aware that the current period of funding of the Excellence Initiative was initially limited from 2012 to 2017, 72 per cent of staff members nevertheless believed that TU Dresden's Institutional Strategy is effecting long-term structural changes. The data is still being evaluated in detail at the Center for Quality Analysis (ZQA). The ZQA is also in charge of the current Institutional Strategy evaluation by external reviewers commissioned by the Rectorial Board.

“WORLD – IDENTITY - RELATIONS” EXHIBITION AT THE ALTANA GALLERY



From 2 May to 5 August, the exhibition “World – Identity – Relations” (W.I.R.) is on view at the [ALTANA Gallery](#). The photographer Gabriele Seitz has created some 150 black and white portraits of international scientists. The portraits are presented together with objects from research and from the respective home countries of the scientists, and provide an insight both into their fields of research and the way they live.

DRESDEN-CONCEPT TO STAGE SCIENCE SLAM IN FRONT OF SEMPER OPERA HOUSE

On 23 May at 7 p.m., [DRESDEN-concept](#) will be carrying out an Open-Air Science Slam on Theaterplatz in front of the Semper Opera House. The slam will take place in English and German and deal with regeneration and language, and physics and relations. The group of

22 partners from science and culture will pit a total of six slammers against each other – from professors to PhD candidates.

LECTURE SERIES “POLITIK UND STRUKTUR IN ZEITEN DER UNGEWISSEHEIT”

In the summer semester, the [DRESDEN-concept](#) science network is launching a lecture series on the topic “[Politik und Struktur in Zeiten der Ungewissheit](#)” (Politics and structure in times of uncertainty). The series kicks off at 7 p.m. on 11 May with “[Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland](#)” (Jewish Life in Germany). The venue is the Militärhistorisches Museum (Military History Museum). The historian and author, Hermann Simon, who is also the founding director of the New Synagogue Berlin, has been invited to speak.

NOBEL LAUREATE NAKAMURA GIVES LECTURE ON LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES

The School of Science is continuing its high-profile seminar series [Nobel laureates](#) on 11 May, the US American materials scientist Shuji Nakamura will be giving a talk entitled “[Invention of blue LED and future solid state lighting](#)”. In 2014, Nakamura won the Nobel Prize for Physics for his work in developing blue light-emitting diodes (LEDs). In this way, he created the conditions for the durable, energy-saving white LEDs that we can find today in everything from mobile phones to large screens. Further talks are scheduled for 22 June and 6 July.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF TRAINING WEEK TO START AT END OF MAY

The second “[International Staff Training Week](#)” will be taking place from 23 to 27 May at Technische Universität Dresden. About 30 non-academic members of staff from mainly European universities are expected. They will be given an overview of the work flows at the central student advisory service and the International Office as well as at the European Project Center, the Transfer Unit and the Project Scouts.

TUD PROMOTIONAL VIDEO WINS GOLD AWARD

In April, the English version of TUD's promotional video "Hochspannend" won the Gold Remi Award at the 49th Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film and Video Festival. In the film "Incredibly exciting - TU Dresden", which was produced in 2015, TUD showcases its capabilities in teaching and research.

FIRST "GENDER-TREFF(TZ)" MEETING IN JUNE

The research project Gendered University and the Eleonore Trefftz Programme for Visiting Women Professors are extending an invitation for a joint conference to be held at the Office of the Rector from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 16 June. At the "Gender-Treff(tz)" meeting, the current visiting professors will be introduced and the latest research results of the Gender Project will be presented.

GA WRITING WORKSHOP IS LAUNCHED

On 12 May, the Graduate Academy will be opening its doors for the first new [GA writing workshop](#). As well as benefiting from individual advisory sessions and workshops, PhD candidates and postdocs will in future also be able to use the work spaces in the newly renovated rooms in the basement of the GA to work on their academic papers. In addition, 20 PhD candidates and postdocs will have the exclusive opportunity to attend a "writing retreat" at St. Marienthal Abbey from 6 to 11 September. You can apply for a place on the [GA Writing Retreat](#) up till 31 May.

DAY OF THE DOCTORATE: "DARE TO DO A DOCTORATE"

The Graduate Academy held its first "Day of the Doctorate" on April 14, with the aim of encouraging more students at TU Dresden to "dare to do a doctorate". The various talks were very well attended by almost 150 interested participants. On 7 April, the first two-day workshop on the topic of professional PhD supervision for university lecturers was held by Dr. Helmut Brentel from Frankfurt am Main.

COLOURFUL ON-STAGE PROGRAMME



TUD's theatre company "die bühne" will be offering the Graduate Academy's programme some light-hearted support and lots of fun during the summer semester (photo: Helm). "die bühne" will also be making a guest appearance at the [summer party](#) on 22 June at Mommsenstrasse 7. To add to the fun, the GA will be looking for the most creative mortarboards for the summer party. The guests will act as the jury and vote for the most original "Dr. Hat". Competition entries can be submitted to the [Graduate Academy](#) up till 15 June. Since April, the GA has also been communicating via [Facebook](#).

CRTD DEVELOPS RETINAL MODEL

Scientists at the Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD) and the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases have created artificial retinas from stem cells in the lab. This means that Dr. Mike Karl's research team has developed a new method that is more efficient and reliable than current procedures. Based on these model systems, which are also called "retinal organoids", the researchers are planning to investigate eye diseases and potential strategies for treatment.

CRTD: IMPROVED STEM CELL REGULATION IN COLON CANCER

Colon cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in Germany. Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Zeißig, group leader at the CRTD and physician at the Medical Clinic I, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden, has for the first time been able to establish a decisive

role played by gut bacteria in the regulation of intestinal stem cells and the development of colon cancer. This discovery promises new therapeutic approaches, not only for treating cancer but also for promoting intestinal regeneration, for example after chemotherapy.

GRANT OFFICE OPENS ITS DOORS

The [Grant Office](#) (GO) was set up in February 2016 to support scientists at B CUBE, BIOTEC and CRTD in acquiring grants for the basic and applied research conducted here. The GO was initiated by Prof. Michael Brand and will be funded for the next three years by the Free State of Saxony. The goal is to establish a team of specialists for grant application management. The Grant Office also aims to strengthen the profile of the Dresden Biocampus in local, national and international networks.

VISIT OF A MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Hermann Winkler, Saxon Member of the European Parliament (CDU) visited the DFG Research Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD) - Cluster of Excellence at the TU Dresden on March 18, 2016 for an exchange of experience and opinions. Prof. Dr. Marius Ader and Dr. Stephan Speier presented the retina and diabetes research at the CRTD. They emphasized the necessity of suitable animal models for the development of new and innovative therapies for previously incurable diseases like diabetes mellitus or age-related macular degeneration (AMD). [»read more about CRTD](#)

IMPORTANT AWARD FOR DOCTORAL THESIS

cfaed group leader of Networked Embedded Systems [Dr. Marco Zimmerling](#) received the 2015 ACM SIGBED Paul Caspi Memorial Dissertation Award. The committee honors Dr. Zimmerling for his thesis "End-to-end Predictability and Efficiency in Low-power Wireless Networks", which he completed at ETH Zurich.

PROF. KUMAR GIVES INAUGURAL LECTURE



The fourth Strategic Professor at the Center for Advancing Electronics Dresden (cfaed), [Akash Kumar](#), gave his inaugural lecture on 29 April. He now holds the Chair of Processor Design (Faculty of Computer Science). In his lecture "Design Methodologies for Reliable and Energy-Efficient Multiprocessor System", Prof. Kumar (photo: cfaed) presented, among other things, a platform-based design methodology to minimise temperature-related wear-outs.

CFAED PATH LEADER RECEIVES ERC GRANT

cfaed leader of the research path "Biological Systems", [Prof. Marino Zerial](#), has been nominated for the renowned "Advanced Grant" of the European Research Council (ERC). Prof. Zerial, director of the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG), is getting support for his research proposal "Rules of self-organization and reengineering of liver tissue". [»read more about cfaed](#)

PUBLISHING DETAILS

Responsible for Publishing:
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Editing: Birgit Holthaus

Picture Credits: cfaed, DRESDEN-concept, Maximilian Helm

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