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DEAR READERS,

On 16 June, the German federal and state governments agreed the follow-up programme for the [Excellence Initiative](#) which is due to expire at the end of 2017. It is now extended until 2019. The future strategy for excellence, worth 533 million euro per year, is intended to promote up to 50 research projects as Clusters of Excellence. In addition, eleven universities are to become universities of excellence. TU Dresden, too, is keen to defend its title as University of Excellence.

CENTER FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND DIVERSITY OPENS

The [Center for Demography and Diversity \(CDD\)](#) opened on 13 June. As a TU Dresden competence centre, it provides a platform for scientists of all disciplines for working the multi-faceted field of social diversity. The members explore causes and consequences of demographic change and of increasing levels of diversity, and use their findings to develop measures that will be of practical use. The opening was coordinated by the "Zentrum für Synergie-Entwicklung" (ZSE). A series of events - the "Demography Salon" - is intended to promote the exchange of ideas between practice and science, in order to boost research. An initial demography salon focussing on migration is planned for 7 November 2016. In addition, the CDD will be sending several speakers to the "Saxon Data Salon", an event taking place on 6 October 2016.

LECTURE BY NOBEL LAUREATE IN CHEMISTRY

The [School of Science's](#) lecture series with Nobel laureates will continue. On Wednesday, 6 July, at 7 p.m., Gerhard Ertl, who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2007, will speak on "Catalysis on surfaces: motor of chemical transformations" at the Hörsaalzentrum (Lecture Hall), Bergstraße 64.

DR. ÜNAL COSKUN IS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Ünal Coskun (left, together with TUD Rector Prof. Müller-Steinhagen; photo: Holthaus) was awarded his certificate as new [Young Investigator](#) at TU Dresden on 14 June. The scientist, who has a PhD in Biology, is a group leader at the Paul Langerhans Institute of the Medical Faculty at TU Dresden and member of the Dresden/Bangalore Max Planck Lipid Research Center.



NEW MEMBER AT PROJECT SCOUTS

Dr. Kornelia Ehrlich (photo: Gigga) joined the [Project Scouts](#) team on 1 May 2016, and is responsible for the research priority area "Culture and Knowledge". Dr. Ehrlich completed a degree course in Cultural and Spanish Studies in Leipzig and Salamanca, Spain. She wrote her PhD at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin on Europeanisation processes.



ORIENTATION PLATFORM RESEARCH & PRACTICE

The ESF project "[Orientation Platform Research & Practice](#)" (OFP) at the Centre for Learning and Teaching (ZiLL) allows students to gain insights early on in their studies into subject-related research projects and future working practices in businesses. Students at the Departments and Faculties of Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering will be able to familiarise themselves with the very working contexts in which they might find themselves - whether in research or in a business - upon successful completion of their studies. The Centre for Learning and Teaching (ZiLL) is looking for [five student assistants](#) to support the "Orientation Platform Research & Practice" project.

2ND INTERNATIONAL STAFF TRAINING WEEK

25 non-academic staff members from 13 countries (photo: Lohse) took part in the second "[International Staff Training Week](#)" held from 23 to 27 May. The guests from Spain, Switzerland, Great Britain and from as far afield as Australia, Mexico and Colombia were given an overview of the work done by the International Office, the Central Student Advisory Service and the European Project Center, as well as by the Transfer Unit and the Project Scouts. A talk entitled "Non-Academic Staff: A Pillar in the Internationalization Process of our Universities", given by Marina Casals Sala, Head of the Office for International Relations at the University of Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona (Spain), was also included in the extensive programme for the visitors.



GOOD FEEDBACK FOR FIRST "GENDER-TREFF(TZ)"

Good feedback for the joint event "Springboard to the Top" of the research project "Gendered University" and TUD's Eleonore Trefftz Programme for Visiting Women Professors which took place in the Rectorial Office on 16 June. At the first well attended "Gender-Treff(tz)", the professors who are currently at TUD on the Trefftz Programme, gave an overview about their research topics. At the moment, six women professors from the USA, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany are on research visits at TUD. Furthermore, the latest research results of the gender project were presented and, later on, were analysed in a panel discussion.

PRESENTATION OF CERN IN DRESDEN

The European Organization for Nuclear Research CERN in Geneva will give some information about career chances and research opportunities for PhD candidates. The event will take place on 13 June at 5 pm in the TUD rectorat at Mommsenstraße 11, in collaboration with the Graduate Academy.

SCIENCE EXHIBITION ON DRESDEN'S NEUMARKT

From 2 July, an extensive science exhibition on Dresden's Neumarkt will be providing information about the research findings of DRESDEN-concept partners. Which materials make furniture float? How can books that are falling apart be made available online? And what does "tactile internet" actually mean? The exhibition, which hopes to enthrall both locals and visitors with its scientific highlights until 3 October, will address these and other questions. At 10.30 a.m. on 7 July, the Rector of Technische Universität Dresden, Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen, and Dirk Hilbert, the Mayor of Dresden, will be attending the exhibition.

NEW DATE FOR DRESDEN-CONCEPT SCIENCE SLAM

The Open Air Science Slam organised by DRESDEN-concept e.V. will take place in the chapel of the Dresden residential palace at 6 p.m. on 2 July. This event had to be abandoned on 23 May due to bad weather in Dresden. Among the slammers are two microbiologists from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics Dresden, a chemist from the Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf and an art historian from the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (State Art Collections). Prof. Ludwig Schultz, office manager of DRESDEN-concept, will be chairing the event.

SAXONY'S PREMIER STANISLAW TILICH VISITS CRTD

On 25 May, Saxony's Premier Stanislaw Tilich (photo: CRTD) visited the CRTD, one of the research centres of the Free State of Saxony funded by the Excellence Initiative, in order to learn first hand about the research being carried out there into diabetes, the retina and neurodegenerative diseases. He talked with CRTD research group leaders and representatives from Technische Universität Dresden's senior management about the latest findings in the area of basic medical research and their significance for therapies of the future.



MICHAEL BRAND ELECTED AS EMBO MEMBER

CRTD and BIOTEC research group leader Prof. Michael Brand, founding director and spokesperson of the CRTD from 2005 to 2014, has been elected as a member of EMBO. The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) elects new members every year in recognition of the excellence of their contributions to research. EMBO is an organisation with more than 1700 leading scientists from all over the world, including 84 Nobel laureates, and promotes excellence in the life sciences.

10TH CRTD SUMMER CONFERENCE ON REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

More than 200 members of the CRTD network took part in the 10th Summer Conference on Regenerative Medicine on 3 June. Prof. Henrik Semb (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) gave the keynote lecture on opportunities and challenges in cell replacement therapy in diabetes. Prof. Beate Winner (Universitätsklinikum Erlangen) presented her work relating to spatacsin-associated hereditary spastic paraplegia. The session was completed by the second keynote lecture, given by Prof. Didier Stainier (Max Planck Institute for Heart und Lung Research at Bad Nauheim), in which he provided insights into his research on organ regeneration in zebra fish. The 11th Summer Conference will take place on 2 June 2017. [» more information about CRTD](#)

VISIT OF NOBEL LAUREATE: INVENTOR OF GRAPHENE GIVES TALK AT CFAED

On 16 September, the cfaed will welcome a world-class scientist at TU Dresden: the inventor of the "miracle material of the 21st century", Sir Konstantin S. Novoselov FRS, will give a talk entitled "Graphene: Materials in the Flatland" in the banquet hall on Dülferstrasse. Konstantin Novoselov and his colleague Andre Geim won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010.

CFAED RESEARCHER WINS FUTURE SAX START-UP COMPETITION

The cfaed offers its congratulations to its member Dr. Robert Brückner. The scientist won the Free State of Saxony's start-up competition, FutureSAX, together with his Senorics team (photo: cfaed). The team, which researches at the Dresden Integrated Center for Applied Physics and Photonic Materials (IAPP), has developed an optical sensor based on organic electronics for use in agriculture. Until now, it has only been possible to determine the degree of ripeness, the moisture or the protein content of grain crops after harvesting – with the new sensors, this will now be possible before the harvest, and in a way that is very quick and inexpensive. [» read more about cfaed](#)



MOURNING LOSS OF PROF. GESSNER

It is with great sadness that cfaed has had to receive the news of the completely unexpected death of Prof. Thomas Geßner. With the death of the Professor from TU Chemnitz, who was also the Director of the Fraunhofer Institute ENAS, the Cluster has lost its co-founder and one of its most important minds.

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