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Dear Readers,

You may remember the picture that appeared in the media on 15 June 2012: a cheering TUD Rector, surrounded by beaming TUD researchers, rejoices at being awarded the title of excellence.

31 October 2017 marked the official end of the Excellence Initiative project. This is an opportunity to look back at the past five "years of excellence". Do check out our [special supplement on the Excellence Initiative](#) in the current issue of the Universitätsjournal.

Syrian Researcher Fatina Kourdi is now Trefftz Professor

From 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018, the Syrian Professor Fatina Kourdi will be an [Eleonore Trefftz Visiting Professor](#) at TU Dresden (TUD). From March to September 2017, Prof. Kourdi already worked at the TU Dresden Faculty of Architecture as a [DRESDEN Senior Fellow](#).

Prof. Fatina Kourdi was Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Aleppo University (Syria) until 2013, and also worked at the private Ebla University in neighbouring Idlib-Sarakeb. Due to the war, she fled to Turkey, where she worked at the Zirve University in Gaziantep until it was closed by the Turkish government after the attempted coup on 16 July 2016.



Professor Fatina Kourdi (Photo: TUD)

As of winter semester 2017/2018, Prof. Kourdi and Prof. Manuel Bäumlner will jointly be offering a multi-part seminar on the topic "[Rebuild Aleppo! Szenarien und Strategien für den Wiederaufbau in informellen Siedlungen](#)" (*Scenarios and strategies for reconstruction in informal settlements*).

New Intercultural SprInt Seminars

In the winter semester, the [SprInt Programme](#) will be offering [new intercultural courses](#) on South Korea (28 November) and Iran (12 December).

Then, on 14 November, Russia will be the subject of discussion, followed by Turkey on 16 November, Japan on 4 December, and Great Britain on 7 December. Registration is possible at all times.

The SprInt Programme is a free continuing education programme providing language and intercultural training for non-academic staff at TUD.

New CRC on Invectivity Opened with Involvement of Two OTT Professors

On 17 October, TU Dresden's new [Collaborative Research Centre \(CRC\) 1285 "Invectivity. Constellations and Dynamics of Disparagement"](#) was opened at the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum (Museum of Man). In twelve research projects, forms and consequences of disparaging, hurtful acts of communication in the past and present are being investigated. These acts range from small displays of impoliteness through unambiguous abuse right up to verbal aggression bordering on physical violence. The CRC is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Two [OTT Professors](#) are involved in the Collaborative Research Centre:

Media scientist [Lars Koch](#) is examining the "Theatre of Discrimination. Representation and Reflection of Invective Dynamics in Contemporary Theatre, Performance, and Action Art". The legal scholar [Sabine Müller-Mall](#) is focusing on "Invectivity on the Internet: Protection of Privacy, Civil Liberties and the Constitution of (Digital) Public Spheres".

Career Day Provides Information on Potential Career Paths

The fourth [Graduate Academy Career Day](#) is set to take place on 17 November. Doctoral candidates and postdocs can find out about non-academic professions and career strategies from 9.30 a.m. in the banquet hall of the

Alte Mensa on Dülferstraße. The extensive programme comprises lectures on a selection of professions, discussion rounds with Graduate Academy alumni, as well as training and coaching opportunities.

Final Meeting of the ERC Project "The Principle of Disruption"

From 16 to 18 November, the ERC research group "The Principle of Disruption" of [OTT professor Lars Koch's Chair of Media Studies and Modern German Literature](#), will host its final meeting. The [focus will be on the topic of "New Order"](#), in which current political systems of order will be analysed and discussed.

Research Services Day Well-Attended

On 26 October, a well-attended [3rd Research Services Day](#) took place in the banquet hall on Dülferstraße. In an interactive panel discussion, the numerous participants were able to trace the path from research idea through to successful third-party funding application, and on to the exploitation of the results by a company.

The Future of Medical Technology from a Dresden Research Perspective

The kick-off event of the [Scientific Area Network \(SAN\) "Innovations in Medical Technology"](#) was held in the Dresden State Art Collections on 23 October with approx. 150 (junior) researchers from [DRESDEN-concept partner institutes](#) in attendance. Each of the 22 speakers held a five-minute presentation of their current research findings and these functioned as catalysts for subsequent discussions with other scientists. Implants made out of regenerative materials, innovative surgical instruments and intelligent microsystems for treating illnesses: these were just a few of the event's topics. After reflecting on the kick-off event, interested researchers will be invited to follow-up networking meetings.

The [Scientific Area Networks](#) support interdisciplinary, subject-specific research between scientists of the [24 DRESDEN-concept partner institutes](#). [Lena Herlitzius](#) is the contact person.

DRESDEN-concept Exhibition now at the CRTD



After stops in Wroclaw and London, now back in Dresden: [DRESDEN-concept's science exhibition](#) is currently on display at the [Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden \(CRTD\)](#). It will then be shown in Prague in spring 2018. (Photo: CRTD)

Holiday Academy at the CRTD

Why not turn your autumn school holidays into a scientific experience? Ten students from four cities in Saxony and from Latvia were able to do just that at the [CRTD](#) from 2 to 6 October. The Holiday Academy's aim is to give young adults the opportunity to gain an insight into CRTD research.

The participants learned about handling zebrafish, DNA isolation and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as well as immunofluorescence staining.

PRO RETINA Deutschland Research Prize for CRTD Scientists

The three [CRTD](#) scientists Silvia Llonch, Oliver Borsch and Tiago Santos-Ferreira (Prof. Marius Ader's working group) have been awarded the [Makula \(MD\)-Forschungspreis 2017 of PRO RETINA Deutschland](#) for their joint publication "Retinal Transplantation of Photoreceptors Results in Donor-Host Cytoplasmic Exchange". The research prize for the prevention of blindness was awarded during the Congress of the German Ophthalmological Society (DOG), which took place in Berlin in October.

On 20 October, the [Dresden Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics](#) also hosted a retina information day, which was co-organised by the CRTD.

CRTD Welcomes Dr. Maximina Yun as New Research Group Leader

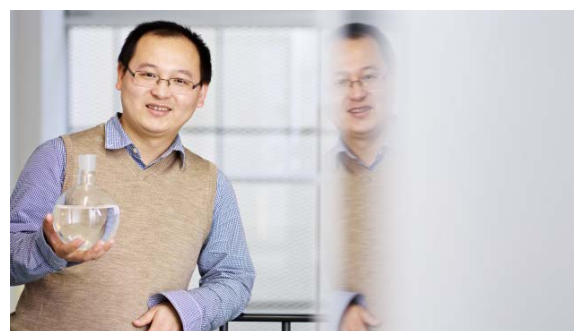
[Dr. Maximina Yun](#) is the new leader of [CRTD's](#) research group on "Regeneration of complex structures in adult vertebrates". Her research aims to determine the cellular and molecular factors underlying the ability of complex structures to regenerate. Also, she intends to investigate how changes caused by phylogeny and the ageing process influence regenerative potential.



Dr. Maximina Yun (Photo: CRTD/Franziska Clauß)

Prof. Feng to be Awarded the Hamburg Science Award

Prof. Xinliang Feng from the [Center for Advancing Electronics Dresden \(cfaed\)](#) and Prof. Klaus Müllen from the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz are the winners of the [Hamburger Wissenschaftspreis 2017 \(Hamburg Science Award\)](#). By honouring them with this prize, the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg acknowledges their fundamental research results in the field of graphenes.



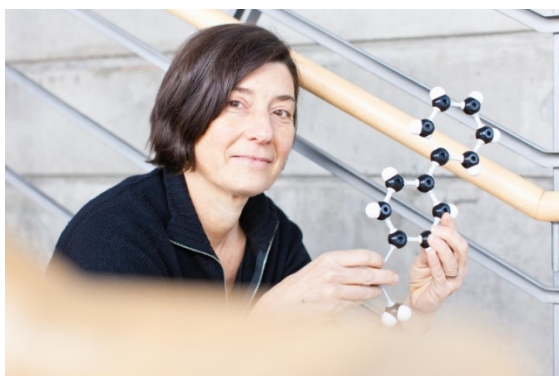
Graphene expert Prof. Xinliang Feng (Photo: cfaed/Jürgen Lösel)

The prize, endowed with 100,000 euros, is donated by the Hamburg Foundation for Science, Development and Culture Helmut and Hannelore Greve. The award ceremony will take place on 17 November under the patronage of mayor Olaf Scholz.

“Single Molecular Machines” Research Group Starts Work

The [cfaed's](#) new research group “Single Molecular Machines” has taken up its work. The group, led by Dr. Francesca Moresco, uses atomic and molecular manipulation as well as methods of on-surface synthesis to exploit the quantum mechanical properties of molecular and atomic structures for nanoscale applications in electronics and mechanics.

The researchers collaborate closely with the [Chair of Materials Science and Nanotechnology at TU Dresden](#) (Prof. [Gianaurelio Cuniberti](#)). Within the cfaed, there are active collaborations with the organic/polymer path, the future 2.5D path and the silicon nanowire path.



Dr. Francesca Moresco (Photo: cfaed/Jürgen Lösel)

New cfaed Professor Marc Timme Establishes Research Group

The new [cfaed chair](#) “Network Dynamics” held by Prof. Marc Timme is growing rapidly: several new positions for scientific staff are being filled currently. The new chair is assigned to the [Cluster of Excellence cfaed](#) as well as to the [Institute of Theoretical Physics](#), and combines biology and engineering with applied mathematics and theoretical physics, making it the first interdisciplinary Chair of Network Dynamics in Germany.

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