

EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

2 November 2016

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

- _ "Excellence Strategy" Begins with Tight Schedule
- _ Four New TUD Young Investigators
- _ Programme "Fast Forward" for Junior Research Group Leaders
- _ New Centre for Sustainability Assessment
- _ "Orientation Platform Research & Practice" to Start in November
- _ Teaching Award for Risk Seminar
- _ Dresden Science Exhibition on Tour

CLUSTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- _ CRTD: New Findings in Photoreceptor Transplantation
- _ New Therapies for Bone Fractures
- _ Exhibition: "Potnia Theron. The Animal in Science and Art"
- _ DIGS-BB: "Science goes to School"
- _ Roofing Ceremony at cfaed
- _ Prof. Mannsfeld to Lecture on Organic Devices

DEAR READERS,

No sooner has the [timetable for the new Excellence Strategy](#) been set out, than it is time to start thinking about deadlines: applications for bridging funds to cover the period until 2019 for current Excellence institutions had to be submitted to the German Research Foundation (DFG) by 1 November. The TUD has already complied with this particular deadline. By 1 December, statements of intent regarding submitting draft proposals for Clusters of Excellence have to be handed in. These draft proposals then have to be submitted by the beginning of April 2017. We will also let you know about additional milestones in good time.

"EXCELLENCE STRATEGY" BEGINS WITH TIGHT SCHEDULE

The aim of the "Excellence Strategy" is to strengthen Germany's position as an outstanding place for research in the long term and to further improve its international competitiveness. The Strategy is designed to continue the development of the German universities, which was begun successfully in 2005 with the Excellence Initiative, by supporting research of the highest standard. The German Council of Science and Humanities and the German Research Foundation (DFG) will jointly implement the new programme in two funding lines:

1. Clusters of Excellence for project-based funding in internationally competitive fields of research at universities or university consortia.
2. Universities of Excellence to strengthen universities as individual institutions or as university consortia in the long term and to further develop their leading international role on the basis of successful Clusters of Excellence.

FOUR NEW TUD YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Once again, junior researchers have been awarded the title of "TUD Young Investigator": Dr. Carlo Vittorio Cannistraci (BIOTEC), Dr. Ilona Croy (Medical Faculty Carl Gustav Carus), Dr. Dominik Kraus (Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf) and Dr. Sander Münster (Faculty of Education). The "TUD Young Investigator" status strengthens the position of independent junior research group leaders in Dresden by fostering their integration into the faculties.



Two of the four new TUD Young Investigators: Dr. Dominik Kraus (left) and Dr. Ilona Croy at the award ceremony with Rector Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen. Photo: Cindy Ullmann

PROGRAMME "FAST FORWARD" FOR JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS

The first module of the FAST FORWARD qualification programme, developed in close cooperation with the TUD Young Investigators, took place in the Graduate Academy in October. The explicit aim of FAST FORWARD is to convey valuable knowledge and interdisciplinary competences to junior research group leaders in a compact manner, particularly in view of the very limited time resources available to them. In this way, the step on the career ladder towards a professorship is facilitated. The first day of the workshop was dedicated to optimising professional behaviour in everyday working life. On the second day, the participants dealt intensively with the topic of appointment negotiations. The second module is scheduled for April 2017, and will focus on the topics "Leadership" and "Doctoral Supervision".

NEW CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

PRISMA, a new TUD Centre for Sustainability Assessment and Policies, was founded on 7 October. It was initiated by Prof. Edeltraud Günther, holder of the Chair of Business Management, with special focus on Environmental Management. PRISMA is intended to create a platform for the co-operation between the most varied of disciplines in order to examine questions relating to a development that is ecological, economically successful and also socially acceptable over the long-term. In doing so, actual conditions of space and time are to be taken into consideration and innovative, interdisciplinary assessment approaches used.

The first three research projects will analyse intergenerational effects of human activity, evaluate regional environmental conditions – such as water scarcity – and sustainable energy supplies. The foundation of the new Centre for Sustainability Assessment and Policies was supported by the Centre for Synergy Enhancement (ZSE).



Initiated PRISMA: Prof. Edeltraud Günther. Photo: TU Dresden

"ORIENTATION PLATFORM RESEARCH & PRACTICE" TO START IN NOVEMBER

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching (ZiLL) is a byword for innovative, research-oriented formats that promote the intensive exchange of ideas in teaching. This aim is served by the ESF project "Orientation Platform Research & Teaching" (OFP), which was developed by the ZiLL together with the Career Service and representatives of the Departments or Faculties of Chemistry, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The OFP provides students of

these subjects (in their 1st to 4th semesters) with insights into research projects and future working practices in businesses: at “company rallies” and “practice expeditions”, students can take an exciting look behind the scenes, work on case studies and experience how “dry” theoretical principles come alive in a business.

The OFP’s tandem programme brings students together with personal mentors from business or science, and in so doing, provides individual support in choosing core study areas and future career paths.

AWARD FOR RISK SEMINAR

On 14 October, teaching staff from linguistics, literature and cultural studies, environmental sciences, food chemistry and economics were awarded the “Lehrpreis der Gesellschaft von Freunden und Förderern der TU Dresden e.V.” (GFF; teaching award of the friends and supporters of TU Dresden) for their commitment to developing and testing a new form of teaching.

Using the “**Forschen und Lernen im interdisziplinären Kontext**” module (research and learning in an interdisciplinary context; abbreviated as FLiK), the teaching staff – headed by Prof. Marina Münkler – struck out in a new direction to interlink the expertise of their subjects, thus dealing jointly with the topic “risk communication and narratives”. In the FLiK module, risks related to the environment, food and nutrition as well as finances were examined with the help of topical examples to discover what the underlying definitions of risk are, what determines the risk communication employed in each case, and which risk narratives take effect in which context.

During a two-semester module that began in the 2015-16 winter semester, students from five faculties experienced intensive changes in perspective and gained insights into the research of the subjects involved. The “Risiko” (risk) FLiK module will continue in the 2016-17 winter semester with consecutive lectures held by a variety of speakers from different disciplines. The centre for interdisciplinary learning and teaching (ZiLL), central measure of the institutional strategy in the area of re-

search-oriented teaching, developed the concept of and supported the “Risiko” FLiK module together with the teaching staff and the “Zentrum für Weiterbildung” (centre for qualification, abbreviated as ZfW).

DRESDEN SCIENCE EXHIBITION ON TOUR

After a successful three months on Dresden’s Neumarkt, the **DRESDEN-CONCEPT** science exhibition can now be seen at various locations in the city. Interested parties can still find out about the research results of the consortium on the TU Dresden campus at Werner Hartmann Building (Nöthnitzer Strasse), Görges Bau (Helmholtz Strasse), in DrePunct (department library of the SLUB), on the campus of the HTW Dresden, on the premises of the Helmholtz-Zentrum in Dresden-Rossendorf and in the “Regierungsviertel” (government district on Wigardstrasse).

CRTD: NEW FINDINGS IN PHOTORECEPTOR TRANSPLANTATION

The research group of Prof. Dr. Marius Ader, group leader at the **DFG Research Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD)**, Cluster of Excellence at TU Dresden, is promoting a new understanding of the mechanism of cell transplantsations aimed at improving retinal function. Affected retinal degenerative diseases include age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and retinitis pigmentosa, with more than 1.6 million sufferers in Germany at present. The study investigates the mechanisms underlying the rescue of retinal function in mouse models.



Prof. Marius Ader. Photo: CRTD

NEW THERAPIES FOR BONE FRACTURES

Prof. Lorenz Hofbauer, CRTD Member and Director of the Center for Healthy Aging at University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, has successfully completed a large phase III-study (FRAME), together with colleagues from eight countries. The study tested the antibody romosozumab for the prevention of bone fractures in women suffering from osteoporosis after menopause. Treatment with romosozumab reduced the risk of various fractures by up to 73 per cent.

The [study](#) has been published in the prestigious "New England Journal of Medicine".

EXHIBITION: "POTNIA THERON. THE ANIMAL IN SCIENCE AND ART"

Following the CRTD's participation in the successful DRESDEN-concept science exhibition until the beginning of October, the research institution is now once again featuring in a similar way. The exhibition "[Potnia Theron. Das Tier in Wissenschaft und Kunst](#)" (the animal in science and art) in the Altana Gallery from 24 October 2016 to 28 January 2017, will, among other things, present the CRTD laboratory animal, the axolotl. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to view stained sections under the microscope and also look at photographs.

DIGS-BB: "SCIENCE GOES TO SCHOOL"

Last month, the PhD candidates of the Dresden International Graduate School for Biomedicine and Bioengineering (DIGS-BB) and their partners, the International Max Planck Research School for Cell, Developmental and Systems Biology (IMPRS-CellDevoSys), visited two 10th grade classes of the Evangelisches Gymnasium Tharandt with their project "Science goes to school". This project offers schools in and around Dresden two-hour workshops involving scientific experiments and discussions on a variety of topics such as everyday life in the lab for a researcher, various career models or the way people from other countries feel about life in Dresden. The workshops are aimed at pupils from 8th to 12th grade.

ROOFING CEREMONY AT CFAED

The [roofing ceremony](#) for the cfaed's new building complex took place at TU Dresden on 21 October. The new building will replace the southern wing of the traditional Barkhausen Building, the construction started in August 2015. The workspace contains about 5100 m², including about 1200 m² for laboratories. The costs of about 36.5 million euros are being met largely by the EU-Fonds EFRE.



Prominent guest at the cfaed roofing ceremony: The Saxon Minister of Science Dr. Eva-Maria Stange (middle), next to cfaed coordinator Prof. Gerhard Fettweis (2nd to the right) and TUD Rector Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen (right). Photo: cfaed

PROF. MANNSFELD TO LECTURE ON ORGANIC DEVICES

Professor Stefan Mannsfeld will give his inaugural lecture today, on 2 November, from 4:30 p.m. in Barkhausen Building, Room 205. The title of his lecture is "[Organische Bauelemente – auf dem Weg zu biegsamer, plastikbasierter Elektronik](#)" (Organic devices – on the path to flexible, plastic-based electronics). Mannsfeld has been Professor of Organic Devices at the Center for Advancing Electronics Dresden (cfaed) Cluster of Excellence since 2014.

PUBLISHING DETAILS:

*Responsible for publication: Marlene Odenbach,
Kim-Astrid Magister
Editing: Birgit Holthaus*

*Postal address:
Pressestelle der TU Dresden / D-01062 Dresden
Address for visitors:
Nöthnitzer Straße 43 / D-01187 Dresden*

*Phone +49 351 463 32398 / Fax +49 351 463 37165
<http://tu-dresden.de> / pressestelle@tu-dresden.de*