

## EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

28 November 2016

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## DEAR READERS,

You might still remember the survey on TU Dresden's Institutional Strategy at the beginning of the year. The [results](#), which have now been evaluated by the TUD Centre for Quality Analysis, are documented on the homepage. Particularly rewarding, among other things, is that almost one in two participating TUD employees reads our Excellence Initiative Newsletter. The many suggestions for improvement and further development of the Institutional Strategy are especially valuable with regard to those activities that have already begun at TU Dresden as part of the new [Excellence Strategy](#).

## TUD WINS "ZEIT KARRIERE-AWARD"

In 2015, TU Dresden developed and published an [advert](#) headed "Unsere Gemeinschaft. Unsere Exzellenz" (our community, our excellence), which has now been awarded first place in the category "Best Image Advert – Teaching and Research" by the specialist jury and in an online vote as part of an advertisement contest organised by the ZEIT publishing group. In granting the award, the jury stated: "This image advert concentrates on the essential and, at the same time, makes you want to be a part of it." In addition, the Dresden University Hospital was successful in two further categories featuring job adverts.

## LEARNING INFORMAL EDUCATION FROM THE CANADIAN "FIRST NATIONS"

From 7 to 17 October, Dr. Michael Hecht (Chair of School Education: School Research), travelled to Nibinamik in Canada. About 400 members of the Oji-Cree First Nation live in this community in Northwestern Ontario which can only be reached by aeroplane. The purpose of the unusual trip was to initiate an international, cultural-comparative education research project where interfaces between traditional, non-formal education and the Western formal education system are investigated. The research initiation is being funded by the [Institutional Strategy funding line Cooperations](#) within the funding programme for implementing the Internationalisation Strategy.

### **CROSS-BORDER TRANSFER WEEK BRINGS RESEARCHERS TOGETHER**

Around 40 participants from Germany, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium and Finland were guests of TU Dresden for the University's first [Transfer Week](#). At an evening reception, the Saxon Minister of Science, Dr. Eva-Maria Stange, emphasised the importance of a cross-border network in Europe, especially in the industrial key areas of energy and materials. During lectures, workshops and a poster session, it was possible to make contacts, present new ideas and plan joint projects. In advance, the Transfer Office had already successfully organised two innovation days together with the Saxon Liaison Office in Prague, and in so doing, initiated a cross-border exchange among science institutions and Transfer participants.



*Intensive exchange of ideas during the Transfer Week: (from the left) Prof. John Grunewald, Prof. Valentyna Pidlisniuk and Magdalena Tarkiewicz. Photo: Robert Lohse*

### **NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL TOGETHER WITH SOUTH KOREA**

On 2 November, TU Dresden took another step forwards in international collaboration with Korea. The newly established International Graduate School "[International Excellence Graduate School on Emerging Materials and Processes](#)", (iEGSEMP), got underway officially at a kick-off meeting. In the group, funded by TU Dresden's Institutional Strategy, seven German junior researchers will be working together with colleagues in Korea on topical questions of materials research and development. The decision to set up this school was made a little over a year ago at the German-

Korean Conference "Science and Innovation" in Seoul, in the presence of Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Rector of TU Dresden, Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen, signed the Letter of Intent together with the Presidents of the Korean top-level research institutions POSTECH (Pohang University of Science and Technology), UNIST (Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology) and Yonsei University. At TU Dresden, the iEGSEMP forms an interface of activities carried out by the three Chairs of Physical Chemistry (Prof. Alexander Eychmüller), Molecular Functional Materials (Prof. Xinliang Feng) as well as Material Sciences and Nanotechnology (Prof. Gianarelio Cuniberti), and the Fraunhofer Institute IKTS (Dr. Jörg Opitz).

### **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP "RESILIENT COMPLEX WATER NETWORKS"**

Since summer 2016, the Institutional Strategy has funded, as part of the Internationalisation Strategy, a group of five PhD candidates at the [Center for Advanced Water Research \(CAWR\)](#). The International Research Training Group "Resilient Complex Water Networks" collaborates closely with groups of researchers comprising PhD candidates and their supervisors at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and at the American universities of Purdue and Florida. Of the joint activities to date, the most important has been the synthesis workshop held in August at TU Dresden. Additional workshops and Summer Schools in Dresden and the USA are planned.

### **THIRD GRADUATE ACADEMY CAREER DAY**

"The doctorate – and then what?" Sooner or later, every PhD candidate has to deal with this issue. Which is why on 10 November at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Career Day, the [Graduate Academy](#) gave all PhD candidates and postdocs the chance to obtain information on career prospects outside science. The programme in the banquet hall on Dülferstrasse began with two keynotes on the topics of "Starting your career in the Saxon job market" and "Alternatives to a career in science". The participants were then able to make use of an individual coaching session and have their application portfolio checked. They were also given the opportunity to get in

touch with Alumni of the Graduate Academy, job market experts and representatives from industry at the numerous round table discussions, and to put their individual questions to them.

### **INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT DRESDEN-CONCEPT IN THE SLUB**

What is DRESDEN-concept and how can I benefit from it? Members of staff of all [DRESDEN-concept](#) (DDc) partner institutions, scientists and interested parties can find out the answers to these questions at the DDc information session on 7 December from 2.30 pm in the lecture theatre at the Saxon State and University Library Dresden (SLUB). In a discussion round, the board members of the research alliance, Prof. Müller-Steinhagen, Dr. Handschuh and Prof. Huttner, together with the office manager, Prof. Schultz, will provide information about the backgrounds and goals of the network. Representatives of the different Scientific Area Committees (SACs) will give an insight into joint research projects.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PRESENTED WITH A SMILE**

At this year's [United Nations Day](#) in the World Trade Center, TU Dresden organised an entertaining "Sustainable Science Slam" on environmentally relevant research topics: winner of the slam, Claudia Schönekerl from the junior research group INOWAS, explained the cleansing power of soil in the artificial enrichment of ground water reserves with the help of water glasses. Another topic among many: regenerative solar cooling systems, presented by the Eleonore Trefftz visiting professor Dr. Madhuri Wuppulluri from India. The Science Slam was humorously compèred by Dr. Anna Görner, Head of the TUD Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management.



*Winner of the slam, Claudia Schönekerl (right) doing her presentation, together with compère Dr. Anna Görner. Photo: Angela Francke*

### **DR. CAGHAN KIZIL MAKES HEADWAY IN ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**

Dr. Caghan Kizil's research team at the DFG-Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden ([CRTD](#)) Cluster of Excellence at the TU Dresden, has made a significant advance in the research of Alzheimer's. The group was able to show how a diseased vertebrate brain naturally reacts to symptoms of Alzheimer's by forming more neurons. They were also able to identify two proteins (Interleukin-4 and STAT6) as being relevant for this process. This is a major step towards a complete understanding of Alzheimer's – a disease with about 170,000 new cases diagnosed every year in Germany. The results of this study were published in October in the scientific journal "Cell Reports".

### **PROF. KEMPERMANN DESCRIBES "THE REVOLUTION IN YOUR HEAD"**

On 3 November, CRTD research group leader Prof. Dr. Gerd Kempermann presented his book "[Die Revolution im Kopf](#)" (the revolution in your head) on adult neurogenesis. Aimed at a wide readership, the book reveals the development of research in neurogenesis and shines a spotlight on what drives researchers in their daily work.

### **CRTD: MORE THAN 50 MORTARBOARDS FLY UP INTO THE AIR**

On 28 October, 52 **Masters Graduates** of courses of study in Regenerative Biology and Medicine (CRTD), Molecular Bioengineering (BIOTEC) and Nanobiophysics (BIOTEC) received their certificates and mortarboards. They celebrated in the CRTD auditorium and its foyer together with their families and friends, as well as with CRTD and BIOTEC members of staff.



Photo: CRTD

### **CFAED DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON TRANSFORMATIVE NANOSYSTEMS**

On 29 November, the cfaed's **Distinguished Lecture Series** will be continued: the Center for Advancing Electronics Dresden (cfaed) Cluster of Excellence will be welcoming Prof. Subhasish Mitra from Stanford University at the Andreas Pfitzmann Building on Nöthnitzer Strasse 46, where at 11.30 am, he will hold a lecture on particularly energy-efficient transformative nanosystems.

### **HIGHEST VDE ACCOLADE FOR CFAED CO- ORDINATOR PROF. GERHARD FETTWEIS**

On 7 November, cfaed coordinator Prof. Gerhard Fettweis, Vodafone Chair of Mobile Communications Systems, was awarded the "VDE-Ehrenring" (VDE Ring of Honour) by the Association of Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies (VDE) in Mannheim. With its highest accolade, the Association has honoured an engineering scientist internationally renowned in the fields of communications engineering, mobile communications technology and micro-electronics.

### **GRADUATION DAY AT DIGS-BB**

As in previous years, the **DIGS-BB** Graduate School paid tribute to its new PhD holders with a graduation ceremony. The Graduate School and the International Max Planck Research School IMPRS-CellDevoSys make up the Dresden International PhD Program (DIPP). The spokespersons of both programmes, Prof. Gerhard Rödel (DIGS-BB) and Prof. Wieland Huttner (IMPRS-CellDevoSys), extended their congratulations to the junior researchers. The humorous lecture for the occasion was given by Dr. Ivan Baines, Head of Administration at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG).



Photo: DIPP

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