

EXCELLENCE NEWSLETTER
4 May 2017
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Dear Readers,

This month, the Dresden science scene will be on show in a prominent place abroad. DRESDEN-concept's scientific exhibition, which is stopping off for a month on Guy's Campus at London's King's College, will be making a special contribution to raising the international profile of Dresden's top research.

DRESDEN-concept: London calling...

Yesterday, the Rectorate of TU Dresden, numerous directors and commercial managers of DRESDEN-concept partners, the Saxon State Minister for Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Dr Eva-Maria Stange, Mayor Dirk Hilbert, the Principal of King's College London and other scientists from Dresden and London officially opened the [Science Exhibition at Guy's Campus](#). The exhibition will be accompanied by 12 events organised jointly by London and Dresden scientists. For several years already, TU Dresden has maintained a close partnership with the renowned King's College, culminating to date in the establishment of the TransCampus in the field of medicine. The goal now is to extend the transCampus partnership to further fields of science and the DRESDEN-concept partners.



Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen, Rector of TU Dresden, during his opening speech. Photo: TUD

Excellence Strategy: 195 Draft Proposals for Clusters of Excellence

By 3 April 2017, the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Bonn, which is organising the competition in the Clusters of Excellence funding line, had received a total of **195 draft proposals for Clusters of Excellence**. TU Dresden is in the running with eight of the 14 Saxon draft proposals for Clusters of Excellence.

63 universities in total from all 16 federal states are participating in the preliminary round with one or more draft proposals. Of the 195 proposals, 47 were submitted by a number of university consortia, including six drafts from one consortium of three universities. Around two-thirds of the drafts anticipate the participation of non-university partners. The majority of concepts are designed to be multidisciplinary. 27 per cent of the drafts have their thematic focus on the natural sciences, 25 per cent on the humanities and social sciences; 24 per cent of the projects are mainly attributable to engineering sciences and, similarly, 24 per cent to life sciences.

On 28 September 2017, the Committee of Experts, which is composed of 39 scientists, will decide which drafts to include in the final selection as proposals to be further elaborated. A decision on these will then be made in September 2018.

University Allowance Planned for Clusters of Excellence

Universities will now be able to apply for an additional **university allowance** of one million euro annually when they submit a proposal to receive funding for a Cluster of Excellence. The Committee of Experts for the Excellence Strategy agreed this at a meeting in Bonn in early April. If several Clusters of Excellence are established at a university, the university allowance will be one million euro per year for the first Cluster of Excellence, 750,000 euro for the second and 500,000 euro for each additional Cluster of Excellence.

New Information on “Universities of Excellence” Funding Lines

Following the decision on Clusters of Excellence, universities with at least two Clusters of Excellence and consortia with at least three can submit an application in the **Universities of Excellence funding line**. Universities intending to apply in the funding line must submit a letter of intent by 21 February 2018. The applications must be submitted by 10 December 2018, and the final decisions on funding will then be taken on 19 July 2019. (In case of this funding, there is no university allowance).

Chemistry Nobel Laureate Gives Talk on DNA Repair Mechanism

Following on from last year's great success, a new public series of lectures with Nobel laureates will be taking place at the School of Science in 2017. The British Knight Bachelor and clone pioneer Sir John B. Gurdon kicked off the series on 26 April with a talk on stem cell research. The American biochemist Paul Modrich will come to TU Dresden on May 16. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015 for deciphering a DNA repair mechanism, and will give a talk on this in the Audimax (Hörsaalzentrum), starting at 7 p.m. Other speakers will be the German geneticist Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (7 June) and the Canadian particle researcher Arthur McDonald (28 June). You can register for the individual events at tu-dresden.de/mn/nobel.



Paul Modrich. Photo: Duke Photography

SprInt Programme to Continue

We can carry on SprInting: the SprInt programme's language and intercultural competence training has already been offering the non-academic staff at TUD a structured continuing education certificate in two versions since 2014. After October 2017, SprInt programme participants can continue to benefit from the varied training courses at least for the next two years up to October 2019. You can apply for the intercultural seminars for the current semester at any time. Please find the complete schedule for the semester and more information on the programme at www.tu-dresden.de/sprint.

Dr Julian Thiele Appointed New TUD Young Investigator

In April, Dr Julian Thiele of the Leibniz Institute for Polymer Research Dresden (IPF) was the 21st TUD Young Investigator to be appointed by the Rectorate. The qualification programme **FAST FORWARD** was designed exclusively for this group of excellent, independent junior group leaders. The two-day workshop, which took place at the end of April at the Graduate Academy, focused this time on "Leadership in Science: Teamleading and Supervising Doctoral Candidates".

Project Scouts IDEENSTUDIO "Mensch 4.0" in the CAVE

On 26 April, the Project Scouts organised the "Mensch 4.0 IDEENSTUDIO" (Human Being 4.0) in the CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment) at Nöthnitzer Strasse. The event dealt with the societal consequences of digitalisation. Both engineers and scientists from TUD illuminated potential effects of these new technologies on our working environment, mobility, legislation and health care system. A follow-up "IDEENSTUDIO" is intended to further develop the interdisciplinary project ideas that have emerged against the backdrop of current funding opportunities.

Graduate Academy: New Doctoral Council is Elected

At the beginning of April, twelve candidates from various departments of TU Dresden were elected to the 3rd Doctoral Council, and will now, for one year, represent the interests of those Graduate Academy (GA) members who are pursuing doctoral degrees.



The new Doctoral Council. Photo: GA

Special Postdoc Programme in the Summer Semester

During summer semester 2017, the GA's modular Certificate "Future Career Program Academia" is being offered especially for postdocs who wish to pursue an academic career or a professorship and are looking for support in planning such a career. The programme also includes one-to-one coaching. If you are interested, you can still apply up until 22 May 2017.

First Dresden Dementia Action Day at the CRTD

On 10 May 2017, the DFG Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD), together with the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden and the Volkshochschule Dresden will present a new event format for the scientific hub of Dresden: the **Dresdner Aktionstag Demenz** (Dresden Dementia Action Day). For the first time, this information and action day will group together a broad spectrum of topics relating to the illness of dementia. Visitors can attend lectures on research into dementia, receive information on the illness and will have the opportunity to discuss dementia.

CRTD Doubles Number of Voluntary Social Year Places in Research



These are the pioneers in the Volunteer Social Year (FSJ) in research at the CRTD: Maria Rosner, Jennifer Schwarz and Max Hyman (from left to right). Due to the high demand, the number of places will be increased from three to six from September 2017 onwards. Photo: Birgit Holthaus

cfaed to Bring "Graphene 2018" to Dresden

The Center for Advancing Electronics Dresden (cfaed) presented the Chair of Molecular Functional Materials held by Prof. Xinliang Feng at Europe's largest graphene conference in Barcelona. On four days, representatives of the areas of atomic precision (Reinhard Berger), energy storage and transformation (Xiaodong Zhuang), and production and innovation (Martin Lohe) were available to answer questions. "Graphene 2018" is now scheduled to take place in Dresden.



Prof. Xinliang Feng (3rd from right) and his team at "Graphene 2017" in Barcelona. Photo: cfaed

Prof. Karl Leo Receives Wilhelm Ostwald Medal

On 7 April, Prof. Karl Leo, cfaed Career Development Director, was awarded the [Wilhelm Ostwald Medal](#) of the [Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig](#) in recognition of his extraordinary scientific achievements. This makes him the second Dresden professor after Manfred von Ardenne on whom this honour has been bestowed. Karl Leo is Head of the Institute of Applied Physics and Professor of Optoelectronics at TU Dresden. The organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) developed by him have made Saxony the leading location in Europe in the field of organic electronics.

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