



GSCN-Newsletter

Dear GSCN members, friends and colleagues,

April 2018

We want to inform you about news from the German Stem Cell Network (GSCN) and encourage you to register for the upcoming GSCN Annual Conference.

- 1) 6th GSCN Annual Conference (19 – 21 Sept.) in Heidelberg, non-PI meeting (18 Sept.), symposium of BMBF projects (18 Sept.), symposium on ethical, legal and social aspects of stem cell research (20 Sept.)
- 2) Online-publication of a comprehensive report on stem cell research for scientists and a broader audience
- 3) Travel awards to stem cell conferences
- 4) UniStem Day 2018
- 5) News from the field

1) Registration for 6th GSCN Annual Conference (19 – 21 Sept.) in Heidelberg, non-PI meeting (18 Sept.), symposium of BMBF projects (18 Sept.) & symposium on ethical, legal and social aspects of stem cell research (20 Sept.) open - early bird advantages till 31 May!

We are happy to invite you to the **6th Annual Conference of the German Stem Cell Network (GSCN)** in Heidelberg. The conference will be held from 19 - 21 September 2018 in Heidelberg and be hosted by the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). In addition, the DKFZ will host the 10th International Behr Symposium on Stem Cells and Cancer from 16 - 19 September 2018 and further events accompanying the GSCN conference: non-PI-Meeting (18 Sept.), symposium of BMBF projects (18 Sept.), symposium on ethical, legal and social aspects of stem cell research (20 Sept.).

Since promotion of junior scientists is a particular aim of the GSCN, most speakers are selected from the best abstracts that have been submitted. The program will be completed by invited keynote lectures to present the international points of reference for this fast-growing field of research. We are happy that **Allison Bardin (Paris), Steve Goldman (Rochester), William Pu (Cambridge, US), Alex Schier (Cambridge, US) Jianlong Wang (New York) and Leonard Zon (Cambridge, US)** have agreed to give keynote lectures on the most recent results from their research.

Read more about the program, the venue and the early bird advantages till 31 May [here](#).

2) Online-publication of a comprehensive report on stem cell research in German for a broader audience: "Stammzellforschung. Aktuelle wissenschaftliche und gesellschaftliche Entwicklungen" (in German)

Patients have high hopes in stem cells for the treatment of the most severe and not yet or insufficiently treatable diseases.

But what are stem cells? Where does stem cell research stand internationally and with a view to Germany today? What is allowed in Germany in international comparison?

The anthology of the Interdisciplinary Research Group Gene Technology Report of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences presents the current state of affairs and also discusses ethical, legal and economic aspects of stem cell research as well as the medical implementation of the results.

You can buy the book, but it is as well available online as PDF [here](#)

The GSCN recommends: Read it!

3) Travel awards for scientists

GSCN members and scientists in Germany can apply for travel awards to international stem cell conferences, workshops and events. To apply please send the submitted abstract to the event and a short letter of motivation (max. 1 page) to the GSCN Office (gscn.office@mdc-berlin.de). The letter should contain the importance of the event for the applicant, how the applicant profits from the event and why financial support is important.

The next deadline is 31 May for events from 1 July to 30 September.

Read more [here](#).

4) UniStem Day 2018

For the third time, the international UniStem Day took place in Germany – and again with more locations and more students involved. The stem cell day is designed to present the state of stem cell research to students, show them the work in the lab, open discussions about science and ethics, introduce science as a profession and different career options.

Newcomers to the UniStem Day were Munich, Ulm and Vienna (Austria) and they really enjoyed the public outreach day with the interested high school students. Altogether, research institutes and universities in Berlin, Bochum, Bonn, Dresden, Essen, Hannover, Heidelberg, Jena, Munich, Ulm and Vienna were part of the Europe-wide Uni Stem Day.

If you are a scientist and want to be involved in public outreach activities, please contact Stefanie Mahler from the GSCN office (stefanie.mahler@mdc-berlin.de).

5) News from the field March / April 2018

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research announces foundation of EU-OPENSREEN

21 March 2018, BMBF

The German Federal Minister, Anja Karliczek, states "EU-OPENSREEN will bring new dynamics to the discovery of new drugs". EU-Openscreen's office and substance library will be located on the Berlin-Buch campus. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research will contribute around 20 million Euros to the European project over a period of five years.

EU-OPENSREEN will create a European substance library in Berlin that will pool the expertise and resources in the field of chemical biology spread across Europe.

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Foundation of the Austrian Society for Stem Cell Research

20 March 2018, IMBA

On 20 March 2018, The Austrian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) was founded at the IMBA –

Institute for Molecular Biotechnology. The aim of the „Austrian Society for Stem Cell Research“ (ASSCR.at) is to create a network of the most important stakeholders of the national stem cell research field.

[\(press text in German\)](#) [\(press text in English\)](#)

Ten years of successful research on cancer stem cells - start of the third round of funding

20 March 2018, DKFZ

In numerous types of cancer, HI-STEM researchers have been able to show the role of stem cells in the development, spread and therapy resistance of malignant tumors. The results show new approaches towards treating the threatening diseases more specifically and more effectively in the future. HI-STEM, a nonprofit institute, will now receive support amounting to €7.5 million from the Dietmar Hopp Foundation for the third consecutive five-year funding period.

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Fine architecture of life

March 2018, Laborjournal

Who is a cell biologist? And which stem cell researcher belongs to cell biologists? There were some surprises at the Laborjournal-publication-screening.

Because cell biology leaves its mark everywhere in the life sciences, delimitation as a single discipline becomes a challenge. As in most of the Labor journal's publication analyzes, the criteria for the jury were the journals in which one author published during the analysis period.

[\(press text in German\)](#)

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