MDC ALUMNI MEETING in the USA
“25-years of the MDC: Research highlights and career pathways”
San-Francisco, 24 August 2017

organised by the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC)
in the Helmholtz Association
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Event web-site: https://www.eventbrite.de/e/mdc-alumni-meeting-abroad-2017-registration-33659299872?ref=ebtn

Contact: Dr Oksana Seumenicht, oksana.seumenicht@mdc-berlin.de

Context
The meeting is a constituent part of the collaborative project “International Research Marketing” which is a joint initiative by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. All the activities within the project are part of the “Promote Innovation and Research in Germany” initiative under its brand “Research in Germany”. The initiative is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
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“25-years of the MDC: Research highlights and career pathways”

Date: Thursday, 24 August
Time: 09:00 – 16:00
Venue: St. Francis Suite, Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell St, San Francisco, CA 94102

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome remarks
• Prof. Martin Lohse, MDC Scientific Director, Vice-president of the Leopoldina
• Dr Ulrike Albrecht, Head of Department Strategy & External Relations at Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

09:15 – 09:45 Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) in the Helmholtz Association: 25 years of exciting science and the future outlook
Prof. Martin Lohse

09:45 – 10:30 Research and research funding opportunities in Germany
Dr Ulrike Albrecht

10:30 – 11:30 MDC RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (science talks by MDC researchers)
• Prof. Martin Lohse, MDC Scientific Director, research group “Signaling Processes of Receptors”
• Prof. Thomas Sommer, MDC Deputy Director, research group “Intracellular Proteolysis”,
• Prof. Claus Scheidereit, Coordinator of the MDC Cancer Research Programme, research group “Signal Transduction in Tumor Cells”
• Dr. Niccolo Zampieri, research group “Development and Function of Neural Circuits”

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 13:30 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (talks by MDC Alumni)
• Seizure Risk Assessment in Epilepsy, Dr Sonya Dumanis, Director, Epilepsy Innovation Institute, Washington DC
• New Therapeutic Strategies against Protein Misfolding in Alzheimer and other Amyloid Diseases, Prof. Jan Bieschke, Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis
• Mammalian Expression Platform for Developing Enzyme Replacement Therapies for Lysosomal Storage Disorders, Dr Vishal Agrawal, Biomarin, San Francisco

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• Stepwise Evolution of Bcd’s Anterior Patterning Roles, **Dr Pinar Onal**, New York University
• Proteomics and Gene Editing towards Discovery of Novel Deafness Genes, **Prof. Jung-Bum Shin**, Associate Professor, University of Virginia
• CRISPR live-cell imaging to understand gene positioning, **Dr Philipp Maass**, Harvard University
• Large scale simultaneous measurement of epitopes and transcriptomes in single cells, **Dr Marlon Stoeckius**, New York Genome Center

13:30 – 14:30 Networking Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 **ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON RESEARCHERS’ CAREERS**, moderated by Dr Oksana Seumenicht, MDC International Office

Confirmed MDC alumni and cooperation partners:

- **Dr Vishal Agrawal**, Scientist, Biogen, SF
- **Prof. Jan Bieschke**, Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Mike Brody**
- **Dr Sonya Dumanis**, Director, Epilepsy Innovation Institute, Washington DC
- **Dr Chris Fröhlich**, Postdoctoral scientist, Columbia University, NY
- **Dr Thirupugal Govindarajan**, Postdoctoral fellow, National Heart, Lung, & Blood Inst., Bethesda
- **Dr Lilia Leisle**, Postdoctoral scientist, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
- **Dr Philipp Maas**, Postdoctoral scientist, Department of Stem Cell & Regenerative Biology, Harvard University
- **Dr Nieves Martinez Marschall**, Postdoctoral fellow, UC Berkeley
- **Dr Pinar Onal**, Postdoctoral researcher, New York University
- **Prof. Jung-Bum Shin**, Associate Professor, University of Virginia
- **Dr Marlon Stoeckius**, Research scientist, New York Genome Center
- **Dr Hakan Toka**, Associate Program Director Internal Medicine / Nephrology, Manatee Memorial Hospital, Bradenton, FL (*cancelled*)
- **Prof. Yanming Yang**, Associate Professor of Neurology, Stanford University
- **Prof. Hua Yu**, Billy and Audrey L. Wilder Professor in Tumor Immunotherapy, Co-leader, Immuno-Oncology Program, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Duarte, Humboldt Research Award 2014

16:00 **Closing remarks**

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The Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) in the Helmholtz Association is one of Germany’s top research institutions. The MDC was founded in Berlin, Germany in 1992. It is named for the German-American physicist Max Delbrück who was awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. The MDC’s mission is to study molecular mechanisms in order to understand the origins of disease and thus be able to diagnose, prevent and fight it better and more effectively. In these efforts the MDC cooperates with the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) as well as with national partners, e.g. within the German Center for Cardiovascular Research, and with numerous international research institutions. The MDC is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (90%) and the State of Berlin (10%) and is a member of the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the largest research organisation in Germany.

The MDC’s scientific program is centred on four main research areas:

- Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases
- Cancer
- Diseases of the Nervous System
- Medical Systems Biology

Some numbers:

- 75 basic science and clinical research groups
- over 1,600 staff from nearly 60 countries, including more than 200 post-docs, and around 350 PhD students (more than 40% international).
- annual budget of approximately €122 million (2015)
- 18 ERC grants were awarded to MDC scientists
- 7 EMBO members, 3 Leibniz prize-winners, 6 German Cancer Award laureates

The MDC Graduate School (www.mdc-berlin.de/phd) provides exceptional research opportunities and in-depth interdisciplinary training in the field of molecular medicine as the foundation of modern medicine. Research areas include cancer biology, immunology, cardiovascular research, metabolic research, developmental biology, medical systems biology, bioinformatics, structural biology and molecular neurobiology. A comprehensive and structured training programme in a unique translational research environment with access to state-of-the-art technology platforms is complemented by various career development courses. There are currently the following thematically focussed PhD programmes:

- MDC - NYU PhD Exchange Program in Medical Systems Biology
- SignGene - German-Israeli Helmholtz Research School 'Frontiers in Cell Signaling and Gene Regulation' (with the HU Berlin, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- TransCard - International Helmholtz Research School 'Translational Cardiovascular & Metabolic Medicine' (in partnership with the Hubrecht Laboratory (Utrecht, Netherlands) and the University of Arizona (Tucson AZ, USA)
- MyoGrad - International Research Training Group for Myology (with the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, FU Berlin and the University Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris)

The MDC is located in Berlin, one of the most vibrant and international cities in Europe. Exceedingly open and tolerant, Berlin’s tremendous creative spirit drives culture, science and innovation. At the same time Berlin is one of the most affordable capitals in Europe.

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