

Klaus Wowereit, Berlin's Governing Mayor, and the Senate of Berlin Visit Campus Berlin-Buch and 'Health City'

Klaus Wowereit, Governing Mayor of Berlin, and the Senate of Berlin today visited Berlin-Buch as part of the regular Senate meeting. The aim of the visit was to learn more about the rapid development which has taken place at Berlin-Buch during recent years. "Campus Berlin-Buch is one of the leading research and biotechnology locations in Germany along with Heidelberg and Munich," said Prof. Walter Rosenthal, Scientific Director of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) Berlin-Buch and Supervisory Board Chairman of the development company of the campus, BBB Management GmbH Campus Berlin-Buch. The Campus had invited the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, and the Berlin Senate to Berlin-Buch.

The MDC, the biotechnology park with its 51 companies, and other research institutions are located on Campus Berlin-Buch in the northeastern part of Berlin. The research institutions include the Leibniz Institute for Molecular Pharmacology (FMP) and the Experimental and Clinical Research Center (ECRC), which is jointly operated by the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the MDC.

After the Senate meeting Wowereit and the members of the Senate toured the Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology (BIMSB) of the MDC, which is currently located in a building on the Berlin-Buch campus. Only recently, the Senate approved € 30 million for a new BIMSB building on 'Campus Nord' of Humboldt University Berlin (HU) in the center of Berlin.

Prof. Nikolaus Rajewsky, scientific head of the BIMSB and recipient of the Berlin Science Award 2010 of the Governing Mayor, described the research work carried out at the institute. Prof. Rosenthal and Prof. Rajewsky thanked the Senate for supporting the establishment of the BIMSB. "The location on the north campus will facilitate closer cooperation with Humboldt University, the Charité, and other research institutions," they said, "and we look forward to contributing to the profile of this campus in the center of Berlin."

Together with other partners there, the BIMSB will comprise the Interdisciplinary Institute for the Life Sciences (IRI-Nord) and thus contribute to Humboldt University's concept for the future. The new building of the BIMSB will be 5500 m² in size and provide research and office space for around 300 employees. The annual operating costs amounting to 20 million euros will be shared by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (90 percent) and by the Berlin Senate (10 percent).

Afterwards, Wowereit and the Senate members toured the experimental ultra high field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) facility, which is housed in its own research building at the MDC. It contains one of the world's most powerful magnetic resonance tomographs. The device is being tested primarily for cardiac imaging. The research group led by Prof. Thoralf Niendorf has developed an innovative approach which provides images of the beating heart in high resolution.

During a subsequent guided tour through Berlin-Buch the Senate also visited the so-called 'Brunnengalerie' (Fountain Gallery), an 11-hectare plot near the highway, which until 2009 was classified as a drinking water protection area and which the Campus would like to use for the

expansion of the biotechnology park.

Dr. Andreas Mätzold, managing director of BBB Management GmbH Campus Berlin-Buch, and Prof. Rosenthal pointed out that after 1910 Berlin-Buch was the largest hospital city in Europe and that today it is a district with great potential as future Berlin 'Health City'. After years of extensive change and development, important perspectives are being realized for the future of Berlin: excellent research, maximum healthcare, knowledge-based industry, and diverse training and continuing education opportunities. Increasingly, it is also becoming an attractive place for living. Dr. Mätzold stressed the importance of strengthening "these cornerstones of the future of Berlin".

In his remarks to the Senate, Prof. Rosenthal said that Campus Berlin-Buch views itself as an engine for sustainable development in the entire Berlin-Buch district, including environmental issues, education and housing. Berlin-Buch shall once again become an attractive 'green city' for researchers and clinicians to live in, just like it was in the 1920s and 30s. One example for attractive living is 'LudwigPark', a new residential development in a former hospital built by the Berlin city planner Ludwig Hoffmann at the beginning of the 20th century, which today is listed in the inventory of historical monuments. Also during the visit, the representatives from science, business, and industry advocated improved public transport connections and more direct expressway (*Autobahn*) access to Berlin-Buch.

Berlin-Buch has approximately 13 000 inhabitants. Altogether around 5800 people are employed in the research and biotechnology sectors and in the clinics and hospitals, and of these almost 2700 people work on the Berlin-Buch campus.

Photos can be downloaded from the Internet at:

http://www.mdc-berlin.de/de/news/photos/senatssitzung_2_august_2011/index.html

Barbara Bachtler
Press Department
Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) Berlin-Buch
in the Helmholtz Association
Robert-Rössle-Straße 10
13125 Berlin
Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 30 94 06 - 38 96
Fax: +49 (0) 30 94 06 - 38 33
e-mail: presse@mdc-berlin.de
<http://www.mdc-berlin.de/>

Further information:

http://www.mdc-berlin.de/en/news/2011/20110805-mdc_welcomes_berlin_senate_decision/index.html

<http://www.mdc-berlin.de/de/bimsb/index.html>

http://www.mdc-berlin.de/en/ecrc/Ultrahigh_Field_MR/index.html

http://www.bbb-berlin.de/e_index.html

http://www.berlin-buch-gesundheitsregion.de/e_start.shtml