

HI-TAC Retreat

Thursday, October 9, 2025

H01 Lecture Hall 1

UMM Mannheim, House 6, Level 4, Room 053

Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1-3 · 68167 Mannheim

Partners in Rhythm: Advances in AngioCardioScience

8:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

9:00 **HI-TAC Public Symposium –
Physician Scientists Program funded by the Carl Zeiss Foundation**

- **Introduction of the Physician Scientist Program and the Carl Zeiss Foundation**
- **Florian Sicklinger** – In-depth spatial profiling of fibrotic lesions in the diseased heart
- **Marco Sachse** – Immunovascular Communication in Septic Cardiomyopathy
- **Nicolas Schommer** – Non-Canonical Immune Reactions: Exploring Neutrophil Extracellular Traps, Serotonin and NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation in Cardiac Injury
- **Marilena Antoniou** – The Role of the Glucocorticoid Axis in Psycho-neuro-cardiogenic Diseases
- **Hans Siegrist** – Enzymatic Class IIa HDAC Activation in Atherosclerosis and HFpEF – Two sides of the same coin?

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 **HI-TAC Retreat - Welcome and Opening Remarks** by the Directorate

Early Career Investigator Tandems

Chair: Gergana Dobрева

- **Eleonora Adami / Ana Muñoz Verdú** – Characterizing the cellular and molecular basis for vascular remodeling in cardiomyopathies
- **Arne Praznik / Andreas Peters** – Hypoxia and abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA): role of oxygen-sensing genes and the effect of MitoQ in vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMC)
- **Rhys Wardman / Annette Hammes-Lewin** – Mechanosensation and RNA Regulation Converge: Insights into Coronary Angiogenesis
- **Bangfen Pan / Narasimha Telugu / Manuela Sauter** – Lipid-Immune crosstalk in cardiometabolic disease
- **Rongling Wang / Patrick Laurette** – Reversing HFpEF: Cardiometabolic remodelling and epigenetic plasticity in the angio-cardiac axis

Max Delbrück Center
hitac@mdc-berlin.de
www.mdc-berlin.de/hi-tac

Update: 07.10.25



Helmholtz Institute
for Translational
AngioCardioScience



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12:45 Lunch break

13:30 Tandem Projects Session 1

Chair: Johannes Backs

- **Arica Beisaw / Jan Philipp Junker** – Spatial transcriptomics to reveal angiocardiac communication in zebrafish heart regeneration
- **Mahak Singhal / Michael Potente** – Understanding the circadian basis of vascular homeostasis
- **Daniela Duarte Campos / Michael Gotthardt** – Integrative Mechanobiology of the Ventricular Wall: Unraveling the Interplay between Coronary Vasculature, Myocardium, and Extracellular Matrix
- **Sofia Forslund-Startceva / Norbert Frey / Konstantinos Stellos** – Microbial signatures in angiocardiac diseases
- **Gabriele Schiattarella / Florian Leuschner / Norbert Frey** – Interorgan Metabolic Crosstalk in Heart Failure

15:20 Coffee break

15:40 Tandem Projects Session 2

Chair: Norbert Hübner

- **Sofia-Iris Bibli / Katja Simon / Yoichiro Sugimoto** – Identifying and targeting the vascular pre-senescent niche in the heart to intercept cardiovascular aging
- **Daniel Dürschmied / Michael Bader** – Contribution of serotonergic mechanisms to neutrophil behavior in cardiovascular pathophysiology
- **Jörg Heineke / Holger Gerhardt** – Deciphering the impact of cardiac endothelial cell populations on heart development, regeneration and disease

Advances in AngioCardioScience

Chair: Norbert Hübner

- **Maarten van den Hoogenhof** – Novel insights in RBM20 cardiomyopathy
- **Chi-Chung Wu** – Cell-extrinsic regulation of cardiomyocyte polyploidy

17:30 Conclusive Remarks

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