IMIM Industry & Innovation Day 2019

List of the Speakers

1st March 2019

Keynote Lecture

"From start-up to big pharma integration: a technology journey in drug discovery"

Gitte Neubauer

VP and Head of Cellzome, a GSK company

Gitte is a scientific founder of Cellzome. She graduated from Imperial College, London in Biochemistry and completed her PhD thesis at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg in proteomics, a technology which formed the basis for the foundation of Cellzome in 2000. As part of the Cellzome leadership team, Gitte built and ran different technology platforms before she took over as Head of Cellzome when the company was acquired by GSK in 2012. Gitte serves on several boards, such as the Scientific Advisory Board of GSK's collaboration with the Butantan Institute in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the Board of BioRN, a regional life science association in Germany and the board of the Center of European Economic Research. In 2011, Gitte was awarded the inaugural EU Women Innovator's prize by the president of the European commission, for translation of her academic research into commercial application. In 2014, she received the honorary economy medal of Baden-Württemberg.

2nd March 2019

Workshops

"Believe! The psychology of persuasive presentations"

Colin Bennett
Presentation Coach
Flames a Mile High

The past 25 years as a teacher, trainer, and coach I've come to see that presentations are really about one thing: how to engage your audience – to get and keep their attention, to generate belief, to inspire action. I've worked with people in all sorts of fields from advertising to academia, e-commerce to engineering, finance to pharmaceuticals. My clients have engaged their audiences to win investment and funding, win awards, and give speeches at the G8 Summit. I'd be happy to help you engage your audience too.

"Intentional networking"

Lenka Kyjacova
Scientist passionate about connecting (with) people
Heidelberg University

Lenka is a postdoc at the University of Heidelberg with 7+ years' experience in oncology research. In 2015, her PhD work on cancer radioresistance has been recognized by the Novartis Discovery Award. Since 2016, Lenka serves the Metastasis Research Society (USA) as an elected ambassador of the Early Career Leadership Council and supports European Association for Cancer Research (UK) in its activities. Besides being a scientist, Lenka's passion is to mentor and empower young talent to follow the career path that is best for them. Fascinated by the nature of human behavior, she spent the last 7 years researching, testing, and implementing networking strategies within academia and beyond. Based on social networks science, Lenka will share tips on how to network more successfully, build key connections, and open new doors for professional growth.

Industry from the Inside Session

Shan-Hua Chung

Scientist in Cell Line & Molecular Development
Roche Diagnostics GmbH

I work as a scientist in research and development in a leading international pharma company, Roche, which I support by coordinating projects across several functions, several cultures and across site communication and cooperation.

I received my bachelor in life science and a master degree in biochemistry in Taiwan. In these 6 years, my research focused mainly on microbiology related topics. After a short period of working as a lab assistant in the University, I decided to do my PhD abroad.

In 2010, I felt privileged to join the international PhD program in molecular and cellular biology (HBIGS) at the University of Heidelberg. My PhD thesis was dealing with the functional coupling of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and plasma membrane (PM) which is involved in Ca2+ signaling. During my PhD thesis, I have gained a strong background in ER homeostasis, protein secretion and trafficking in mammalian cells.

With my comprehensive knowledge in the natural sciences, I deeply commit myself to transforming science into medicine that saves lives. Therefore, I decided to purchase my career outside of academia. My career at Roche began as a post-doctoral researcher working on a joint technology project with academic partner, Technical University of Munich (TUM).

Currently, I hold a scientist position and my key tasks include cell line development for producing complex format antibodies, in charge of host cell line engineering and leading technology projects. Over the past years working in Roche, in addition to expansion of my scientific knowledge in drug development, I have learned to be a global team player, communicator and matrix team leader.

Robert Klein

Senior IT Project Manager
Roche Diagnostics GmbH

Robert Klein is an IT project lead at Roche Diagnostics in Mannheim. He studied bioinformatics and since then is fascinated by interdisciplinary topics and projects. During his PhD studies at the Leibniz-Institute for Plant Biochemistry in Halle (Saale), Robert investigated molecular interactions using computational protein modelling and quantum chemistry. Starting at Roche as a consultant, he worked in the R&D department, involved in the development of handheld medical devices. He worked together with engineers, chemists, doctors and software developers and found himself in an inspiring project setting spanning several disciplines. With his experience in the tightly regulated pharmaceutical industry, Robert moved on to become an IT project manager for the development of custom software used in the GMP environment. He is responsible for the delivery of solutions to support different operational areas at Roche in Mannheim. Since digitalization efforts come up all across the company, there are many opportunities to chip in ideas. Also, the mix of professions and the complexity of business processes create the challenges Robert thrives in. Furthermore, he enjoys the freedom inherent to project work as a large advantage in daily operations.
Roberts biggest interest is in how to make sustainable decisions: What information do we need and how what should we monitor to deliver long-term value without exploiting our planet and each other?

Stefan Sieber

Postdoc R&D
Merck KGaA

I started studying biology at the Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg in 2007. In parallel to my studies, I gained comprehensive insights into the functioning of pharmaceutical companies at Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH and Fresenius Kabi Austria GmbH. The love for applied research led me to conduct my master's thesis at the Fraunhofer IGB / Chair for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Therapies where I developed a human 3D colon cancer model suitable for sophisticated *in vitro* testing.
For my PhD at the Chair of Medical Biotechnology at the Technical University of Berlin, I generated an *in vitro* 3D bone marrow model, thus, remaining in the field of tissue engineering in the context of alternatives to animal testing. Throughout my PhD, I worked closely with the TissUse GmbH which is a pioneer in the field of the "organs-on-a-chip" technology. In my last year of my PhD, I accompanied the transfer of the model I had developed to AstraZeneca and subsequently worked on establishing the model in their drug development department.

Simultaneously, I completed the doctoral program "Regenerative Therapies" at the Charité affiliated Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies.
After working for an additional year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Chair of Medical Biotechnology, I joined Merck as a postdoctoral fellow in the TIP Immunology department working in the field of osteoarthritis.

Sylwia Sekula-Neuner

Researcher & Co-founder
µyPrint, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Sylwia Sekula-Neuner studied Molecular Biology at the University of Warsaw and subsequently received her doctorate degree from the Institute of Toxicology and Genetics at the Research Center Karlsruhe. Since 2007, Sylwia has worked as a researcher at the Institute of Nanotechnology of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. During these years she has become an expert in biological applications of microstructured surfaces in biomedical diagnostics. Her main area of focus was fabrication and optimization of allergen microarrays for allergy diagnostics and designing chips for capturing rare cells, like circulating tumor cells. Over the years except research projects Sylwia has also been working on technology transfer projects with various bio- and nano-technology companies. Since January 2018 Sylwia has left the academia and is working full time in a spin-off project that she has co-founded together with a colleague from her previous research group at INT. The spin-off project is focused on bringing to the market a molecular printer, working on the technology basis of atomic force microscopy. The most exciting and customer-oriented solutions in this printer are automation, printing modularity and large working distances for fabrication of microarrays. The project was funded in 2018 by Helmholtz association via Helmholtz Enterprise grant and the funding of the company is scheduled for April 2019. The company will be funded by Sylwia- who will be focusing on the marketing and customer contacts, and her colleague Uwe Bog, an engineer, who is continuing his work on further developments of the printer. Today Sylwia will present you the printer and its potential in fabrication of bio-active surfaces.

Wei Wang

Head Business Development
GeneWerk GmbH

Wei Wang, Ph.D. is the head of Business Development of GeneWerk, where he is responsible for overseeing the development of new technologies and intellectual property, collaborations and sponsored research agreement, R&D consulting and commercial strategies. Prior to GeneWerk, he has held several academic positions including project leader of vector safety and postdoc research fellow at National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) and German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). With over 12 years of research experience in gene-/ immune- therapy, as well as cancer genomics, he is an author on over 12 peer-reviewed publications. He played a major role in the development of Linear Amplification Mediated PCR (LAM-PCR) and non-restrictive LAM-PCR, a technology that allows the precise identification of viral integration sites across the genome, and evaluation the potential of insertional mutagenesis. This technology has been recommended by EMA and FDA for safety evaluation of clinical trials using integrating (Retroviral vectors and Lentiviral vectors) and non-integrating virus, such as Adeno-associated virus (AAV). Dr. Wei Wang holds a Diploma's degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Heidelberg and Ph.D. in translational oncology from DKFZ.

Felix Franz

Management, Business Development, Co-Founder
evid UG

Felix Franz is a co-founder of a medical company: evid UG (haftungsbeschränkt). Being a psychologist and having an understanding of software development, he together with his co-founders Henry Müssemann (medical computer science) and Dr. med. Johann Rink (medical doctor), is able to connect two worlds, allowing for innovation. The company is developing clinical decision support solutions – software that supports especially young doctors making the right choices in clinical practice. Along the way of developing this young start-up company the team gained a deep insight into Germanys start-up ecosystem, but also a deep insight into what medical doctors miss, need and require to do better work. He will present some of these insights along with the products evid does. The company is looking for skilled personnel, so please feel free to contact Felix.

Career Perspectives Session

Allan Jones

Scientific Advisor
EMEA-LATAM, Roche Diabetes Care, GmbH

Dr. Allan Jones is a molecular biologist by training with a PhD from the University of Heidelberg. After completing his dissertation in molecular metabolic control at the German Cancer Research Center in 2011, Dr. Jones took on different managerial roles in project management and communications at Merck KGaA and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory. In 2017 he started in his current position as a Scientific Advisor at Roche Diabetes Care. In this role, one of his main tasks is to coordinate an EIT Health Innovation by Design project focusing on integrated personalized diabetes management. Outside of work Dr. Jones enjoys running, snowboarding and spending time with his family.

Anna Pryszlak

Senior Scientist
Velabs Therapeutics GmbH

Dr Anna Pryszlak is a researcher specialized in medical biotechnology with a strong background in microbiology and microfluidics.

She obtained her degree in biotechnology with distinction, at the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology (University of Gdansk and Medical University of Gdansk, Danzig, Poland). Dr Pryszlak holds a PhD in natural sciences from the University of Heidelberg. She conducted her doctoral research at German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in the group 'Molecular Therapy of Virus-Associated Cancers' working on crosstalk between human lenti- and papillomaviruses. She did interdisciplinary postdoctoral studies at The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in the research group 'Microfluidic approaches in drug discovery and personalized medicine'. In her postdoctoral project, she established various microfluidic systems including Single-Virus Droplet Microfluidics for High-Throughput Screening of Neutralizing Epitopes on HIV Particles and digital PCR technology for characterization of complex bacterial communities. Currently, she is working as Senior Scientist at Velabs Therapeutics. At Velabs she is performing research across multiple microfluidic platforms, designing technical approaches for the development of functional therapeutic antibodies, solving complex problems and technical challenges with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Mona Malek Mohammadi

Senior Postdoc, Department of Cardiology and Angiology
Medical Faculty Mannheim, University of Heidelberg

Mona is a passionate scientist in the field of cardiac regeneration. She finds the ability of neonatal mice to regenerate their heart after injury very fascinating. Mona is eager to understand the underlying mechanisms of neonatal cardiac regeneration to discover new therapeutic approaches to treat patients in the future. She found her passion in this field of research when she started her PhD and integrated in REBIRTH (Regenerative Biology to Reconstructive Therapy) PhD program at Hannover Medical School. Although challenging, she learned and established different types of surgery in 1-day-old mice to study cardiac regeneration. After graduation she continued as a postdoc for almost 2 years and since Sep 2017 she is a senior postdoc at the Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University. She would like to share her expertise in this field with motivated students and have her own independent group in the future.

Christine Mayer

Deputy Editor
Wiley, VCH

Chris Mayer, born in Schärding, Austria, received her PhD in microbiology and biochemistry from the University Innsbruck – Faculty of Medical Chemistry & Biochemistry. After two EMBO fellowships at the CNRS in Strasbourg, she worked from 1997-2001 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, US as a post-doctoral fellow in the area of protein engineering in the lab of Tom Rajbhandary. This was followed by a second post-doctoral position at the DKFZ, Heidelberg, where she focused on the analysis of translational cancer drugs, epigenetics and non-coding RNAs. In 2009, she joined Wiley-VCH Verlag (Weinheim, Germany) to work on a diverse set of journals in the areas of biopolymers, food science and cell biology; first as assistant editor, then as managing editor. As of 2018 she took on the position of Editor-in-Chief of the journals *Starch/Stärke* and *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research.* She is now responsible for the strategic development of the journals as well as all peer-reviewed decisions. She enjoys teaching and gives regular scientific publishing workshops and lectures.

Jagadeesh Gandla

Accelerator Programme Manager
EIT Health

Dr. Jagadeesh Gandla did his Ph.D. from Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany on 'Cancer associated Pain of bone cancer and pancreatic cancer'. In Ph.D. he published three papers in high impact journals. He is originally from India and did his master's in Animal Biotechnology from University of Hyderabad, India.

In Heidelberg, Germany he served as a president for Indian Student association (HISA). While serving HISA he used to bridge Indian culture and German culture by bringing together people from two nationalities in events like Holi and Diwali. Currently, he is working with a European Commission organisation called EIT Health as Accelerator Programme manager. In his job he is responsible for making several hundreds of start-ups successful by providing support through mentorship by a programme called Mentoring and Coaching Network. Additionally, he is also serving as a board member of EIT Health Alumni. He travels whole Europe to address the challenges faced by students and healthcare start-ups. Recently, he helped in bringing five start-ups from India to Germany though Indo German Business exchange organisation. Additionally, he also attends the meetings from the areas on Sustainable energy, Climate change action, Digital transformation and several other cutting-edge technologies. He is passionate about entrepreneurship in healthcare and he can be contacted through Jagadeesh.gandla@eithealth.eu

Rachel Coulthard-Graf

Career Development Advisor
European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)

Rachel Coulthard-Graf is a Career Advisor at EMBL. She has held several roles in the broad area of science administration with a focus on support for early to mid-career researchers. In her current role, she provides individualized career support for fellows in EMBL's Interdisciplinary Postdoc Programme and organizes a range of training and career development activities at EMBL. Prior to joining EMBL, she worked as Programme Officer for the EMBO Young Investigator Programme and as Research Manager for Graduate Studies at the Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute. She was originally trained as a scientist and received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UCL.

Poster Session

Annalisa Zuccotti
Project Manager & PR
BioRN Cluster Management GmbH

BioRN (www.biorn.org) is a life science research and industry cluster dedicated to the development, networking, representation and promotion of the Rhine/Main/Neckar life science region into one of the leading life science clusters in Europe. In terms of translation support, BioRN leverages the unique combination of global pharma and leading innovators in the network (https://www.health-axis.eu/health-axis-partnering-program), nurtures the regional start-up ecosystem, accelerates academic research to the clinic, and supports the next generation of powerhouse biotech companies.