

Inauguration of the BRIDGE Program

The BRIDGE program was officially inaugurated on 23. November 2010. All GRK1673 members were present at the ceremony which began with a traditional Indian dance. The speaker of the program Prof. Wieler, the heads of the Freie University (Prof. Schäfer-Korting) and University of Hyderabad (Prof. Hasnain), and the Secretary of State for Science and Research of the Berlin Senate, Dr. Nevermann spoke at the inauguration. Prof. Bhatti (Retd) from the Jawaharlal Nehru University presented the Keynote lecture. Representatives of the German Research Foundation (DFG), Dr. Fischer and Dr. Bondre-Beil were also present on this special occasion.



Prof. Lothar H. Wieler

BRIDGE Kick-Off Meeting

A Kick-Off meeting was organized for all students and post docs of the BRIDGE Program on 01. February 2011. The idea behind the meeting was to familiarize all with the workings of the program and the Dahlem Research School. Dr. Van de Sand, Managing Director of the Dahlem Research School, and Prof. Gruber, Representative of the PhD program 'Biomedical Sciences' were kind enough to talk to everyone at this meeting. All had the chance to ask any questions they liked and to clarify all their doubts. After the meeting, a common lunch was organized at an Indian restaurant, followed by a "Team-building" event at an indoor climbing hall. At the end of the day Thomas Horn, was selected as the student speaker for a term of 1 year.



Dr. Martina Van de Sand

Prof. Achim Gruber

➤ ***Berlin Seminar on Next Generation Sequencing***

The emerging new sequencing technologies, re-sequencing and de-novo genome assembly are entering a cost level that admits large scale diagnostic applications and meta genomic studies in all fields of biological, agricultural and medical research. Nearly every recent research project at least partly uses 'Next Generation Sequencing' data. In view of this, Dr. Kleffe from the Freie University organized a seminar series on Next Generation Sequencing in the winter term 2010-2011 in order to stimulate a broad exchange of knowledge in this important field, covering sequencing, computer Science, algorithms, statistics and applications. These seminars were transferred to Hyderabad for the first time via video conferencing.



Torsten Semmler

"This seminar was very inspiring for all who work with next generation sequencing. Professionals with experience in this field gave great examples for applications of this technology as well as an insight into computational methods behind these applications" – Torsten Semmler, Bioinformatician and member, GRK1673

➤ ***Science^{plus} Workshops***

Soft skills play an important role in the BRIDGE program. Two workshops were offered by Dr. Simon Golin from the consultancy company "Golin Wissenschaftsmanagement" in March 2011. 'Getting started with the doctorate – setting the compass' and 'Time Management in doctoral research – Aligning time and goals' were topics carefully chosen by the trainer to suit the needs of doctoral students of the program who just started with their doctorate.

"It was fascinating to see with how much enthusiasm the PhD students have embarked on their research projects. Project management competencies will help them throughout this phase. I enjoyed working with them a lot and look forward to our next workshop" - Dr. Simon Golin



Dr. Simon Golin

Future Events

- BRIDGE Colloquium
20. April – 20. July 2011
- ZIBI Summer Symposium
27.-28. June 2011
- SFB852 Summer School
15.-19. August 2011

Visits to Hyderabad

Noelle O'Regan (Project B1), Thomas Horn (Project B3), Luis Berrocal (Project A4), Nickel Dittrich (Project A5) and Melanie Conrad (Post Doc, Project A5) travelled to Hyderabad between February and March 2011 and stayed in a partner lab for about 2 to 6 weeks.

Noelle was hosted by the lab of Aparna Srikantam at the LEPR Institute. She works on Bancroftian filariasis and aimed to collect blood samples as part of a pilot study in Hyderabad.

Thomas was hosted by the lab of Pallu Reddanna at the University of Hyderabad. He works on Lipoxigenases and aimed to learn the theory and practical handling of computer docking programs and *in silico* analysis during his stay in Hyderabad.

"Overall it was a nice and exciting trip to India, where I developed new friendships and had many new professional and social experiences"



Thomas Horn

Luis, Nickel and Melanie were hosted by Niyaz Ahmed at the University of Hyderabad Their project involves measuring SNPs from tuberculosis patients as well as healthy controls and their aim was to establish a working plan for future sample collection in Hyderabad.

International Research Training Group

"Functional Molecular Infection Epidemiology" (GRK 1673)

Prof. Dr. Lothar H. Wieler (*Speaker, Berlin*), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Niyaz Ahmed (*Speaker, Hyderabad*)

Dr. Esther-Maria Antão (*Coordinator*)

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