

**GRK 1673 congratulates the recent graduates**


In December 2014, Anne Rabes, supervised by Prof. Bastian Opitz and Tatyana Povolotsky from the group of Prof. Regine Hengge successfully defended their theses. GRK 1673 congratulates the new doctors! The next to defend will be Nickel Dittrich and Luis Berrocal who also submitted their theses last year.

**GRK 1673 will end in March 2016**

The outcome of the DFG evaluation in September 2014 was truly disappointing for GRK 1673, as the program will not be prolonged. PhD students of the second cohort will receive stipends, travel and consumable grants until 31.03.2016. They will have the opportunity to travel to India during this last year to finish their projects. The workshop and seminar program will close down in April 2015.

**Winter School 2015 in Hyderabad**

GRK 1673 organizes a winter school in Hyderabad. Niyaz Ahmed, speaker in Hyderabad, generously invited all program members to stay at the University of Hyderabad for one week, 24. – 27.02.2015. There will be time for scientific presentations, lab visits and a bioinformatics workshop. Above all, the winter school will be a good opportunity to renew old bonds or forge future collaborations. The German GRK 1673 members are looking very much forward to enjoy once more the excellent environment of the UoH and the hospitality of our partners in India.


**Lothar H. Wieler designated president of Robert Koch Institute**

In March, Lothar H. Wieler will leave the Freie Universität Berlin to become president of the Robert Koch Institute. He will be the first veterinarian to be head of the RKI, that is the federal government organization responsible for disease control and prevention in Germany.

**BRIDGE Retreat 2014**

The last GRK 1673 retreat was held in November, as always on Schwanenwerder peninsula at lake Wannsee.


**Future Events**

- > Workshop for women: **“Moving towards a career in industry”**, 17.-18.02.15
- > **BRIDGE Winter School** in Hyderabad, 24. – 27. 02. 15
- > **BRIDGE Kolloquium**, The last BRIDGE colloquium will be held on 26.03. in the RKI. Martin Witzentrath invites Dr. Steven Rowe from the University of Alabama.

**Past Workshops**

- > Fit for India and Germany, Nov. 2014 with Vaishali Karmarkar (Goethe-Institute Mumbai)
- > Observational studies for infectious diseases, Dez. 2014 with Prof. Marcus Doherr (FU Berlin)

**Visits to India**

In October, doctoral student Cristin Bock and her supervisor Sebastian Rausch spent two weeks in Chennai, to work on helminth infected blood samples. They were hosted in the lab of Subash Babu at the National Institute of Health. Currently, Swathi Banthiya (Kühn lab) is working with a LOX inhibitor in the lab of Pallu Reddanna. Andrea Sanchini (Lewin lab) is hosted by Niyaz Ahmed to work on Mycobacterium genetics.

**International Research Training Group  
“Functional Molecular Infection Epidemiology” (GRK 1673)**

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