

Gene Center Newsletter July 2004

Top News

This is the first Gene Center Newsletter. The Newsletter will from now on inform on a regular basis about science, teaching, events, and other news concerning the Gene Center. Another aim of this letter is to create a Gene Center identity and to keep in touch with affiliates and alumni. The Newsletters are put together by Katja Straesser, please send feedback and suggestions to strasser@lmb.uni-muenchen.de. Responsible for the content is Patrick Cramer. We hope you will enjoy the Newsletters.

Science

Evaluation and future conception

The external evaluation of the Gene Center in May 2004 has been very positive. As a consequence, the University has decided to follow a future conception that includes recruitment of three new Professors in a timely manner. Details will be presented soon (see Events). Following the evaluation, P. Cramer accepted an offer of Full Professorship and has been appointed Managing Director of the Gene Center-Laboratory of Molecular Biology in June.

EU Integrated Project 3D-Repertoire

The Gene Center is a partner in a new EU FP6 Integrated Project "3D-Repertoire" that aims at structure determination of multiprotein complexes. Other partners include the EMBL Heidelberg and Grenoble, Oxford University, the EBI Cambridge, and the MPIs in Goettingen and Martinsried.

NanoBioTech

The Gene Center participates in a new PhD program "NanoBioTech" within the "Elitenetzwerk Bayern." The program was initiated by C. Braeuchle (Chemistry), J. Kotthaus (Physics), and P. Cramer (Gene Center) as an interdisciplinary research school. It is based at the Center of Nanoscience CeNS.

Gene Center Seminar Series

We will further improve our Seminar Series by collecting speaker suggestions in summer and inviting speakers in advance for the next period from October to July. Group leaders may send suggestions to Petra Fulde at fulde@lmb.uni-muenchen.de. The deadline is July 10, 2004.

Teaching

Teaching coordinator

Heidi Feldmann has been appointed teaching coordinator. Based on her wide experience in lab work and teaching, she will organize and streamline teaching efforts at the Gene Center in collaboration with the group leaders. Questions regarding teaching may be addressed to her at fmann@lmb.uni-muenchen.de. The coordination of teaching is of crucial importance for the overall success of the Center.

Interfaculty Master course in Biochemistry

Building on the highly successful BSc course "Chemistry and Biochemistry," we plan to offer a new MSc course "Biochemistry" starting October 2004. The new MSc course will be organized between two faculties, Chemistry/Pharmacy and Biology, and also relies on the participation of several other institutions, including the Max-Planck Institutes. The idea is to offer high-level teaching to selected students, to optimally prepare them for a future career in the life sciences in

academia or industry. Practical courses will be conducted largely as lab rotations, offering students to participate in current research.

Teaching office

With the launch of the new MSc course we will establish a teaching office on the ground floor that will be operational in October 2004. The office will have defined opening hours, at which students will obtain requested information.

Events

General assembly and Sommerfest

On Thursday July 22nd at 5 pm all members of the Gene Center are invited to a general meeting in the lecture hall, at which future scientific directions will be presented. Following this meeting everybody is invited to a Sommerfest, outside if weather permits. Details will follow soon.

Münchener Wissenschaftstage

Following the great success of last years "Wissenschaftstage" on the 50th anniversary of the DNA double helix, this year's Wissenschaftstage are on "Technik und Leben," and will take place October 22-26, 2004 in the main building of the LMU. This is a big event for the general public, up to 15,000 visitors are expected. The Gene Center will contribute with lectures and the presentation of experimental techniques.

Safety lectures

The annual safety lecture is planned for July 27, 9 am. Details will follow soon from H. Blum.

Annual Retreats

Next year the Gene Center Retreat will be on May 20-22. In 2006, the retreat will take place on May 19-21. Please mark your agendas.

Other News

Central administration

A shared office for the Biochemistry/LMB groups is currently set up on the 4th floor that will be run by B. Mewes, P. Fulde, and S. Kastenmüller. The office will provide help with administration and organizational issues. J. Hohmann continues to take care of financial matters for the Biochemistry/LMB groups.

Restructuring of the 3rd and 4th floors

Moves on the 3rd floor are already completed – thank you for the efforts! Many thanks to everybody for their help in the ongoing restructuring of the 4th floor.

Happy hour and sofas

To foster exchange within the Gene Center we will restart the happy hour in a new format on every first Friday of the month at 3 pm on the 4th floor. Drinks are provided by the Gene Center. The first happy hour will be on September 3, 2004. In addition, M. Schuelein and M. Till will install sofas. We hope this will make people discuss cloning problems and other issues over coffee...

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