

## Gene Center Newsletter May 2005

### Top News

Dierk Niessing will be a new group leader on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor from June 2005. Dierk returns from the US after postdoctoral work at Rockefeller and in San Diego. His group is financed by the Helmholtz Society and the Gene Center and studies motor protein-dependent transport of cellular cargo with structural, biochemical, and genetic techniques.

### Science

#### Crawling on DNA

In the May 6 issue of Cell, the team of K.-P. Hopfner reports the long-sought structure of a SNF2-type ATPase. The spectacular work suggests how remodeling of chromatin and other DNA-protein complexes may occur. The press release is found under News at [www.lmb.uni-muenchen.de/mainframes/genecenter.htm](http://www.lmb.uni-muenchen.de/mainframes/genecenter.htm)

#### Fertility Research Network

A new network "Fertilink - Functional genome research for the improvement of fertility" has been established within the BMBF program FUGATO. The network is coordinated by E. Wolf and includes LAFUGA ([www.lafuga.de](http://www.lafuga.de)) and several Munich research groups. Fertilink aims at a systematic analysis of critical steps in reproduction and complements the DFG research unit "Mechanisms of embryo-maternal communication" ([www.ematko.de](http://www.ematko.de)).

#### HFSP network

K.-P. Hopfner (Gene Center), F. Uhlmann (Cancer Research UK) and T. Ha (Illinois, USA) received 1 Mio \$ as a Human Frontiers Science Program Award to resolve the "Mechanism of cohesin and related protein complexes in chromosome biology" by a combination of structural biology, cell biology, and single molecule physics.

### Teaching

#### DFG Gratuiertenkolleg "Functional Genome Research in Veterinary Medicine"

A new DFG research training unit was established by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine together with the Gene Center ([www.grk1029.vetmed.lmu.de](http://www.grk1029.vetmed.lmu.de)). The unit trains 14 PhD students and 2 postdocs in classical disciplines as well as transgenics, transcriptomics, and proteomics.

#### New lecture series on model organisms

A new lecture series "Biochemistry VI" on the use of various model organisms has been initiated. The lectures introduce yeast, Drosophila, mouse, and Arabidopsis, are coordinated by R. Jansen, and will contribute to the interdisciplinary teaching within the new Master course "Biochemistry."

### Events

#### 1<sup>st</sup> International Gene Center/SFB646 Symposium

On October 14, 2005 the SFB646 and the Gene Center organize a one-day international symposium. Excellent speakers from the US and Europe have confirmed their participation. Please mark your agendas! Details will be announced soon.

“Tag der offenen Tür” on Campus

The Gene Center will participate in a “Tag der offenen Tür” on campus on July 2. This event includes the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Biotech Innovation Center (IZB).

Muenchner Wissenschaftstage @ BuGa 2005

As last year, the Gene Center contributes to the Muenchner Wissenschaftstage. This year the topic is “Life and Light.” The event will take place at the Bundesgartenschau on Sept. 22-25.

Gene Center Annual Retreat

The annual retreat of the Gene Center will take place on May 20-22 in Wildbad-Kreuth. We are looking forward to meeting you there!

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Newsletter of the Gene Center, University of Munich, [www.LMB.uni-muenchen.de](http://www.LMB.uni-muenchen.de)