

Happy New Year!

After the LMU's great success in the national initiative for excellence in research, the future looks bright. Gene Center groups participate in all three clusters of excellence coordinated by the LMU, the Center for integrated Protein Science (CiPS), the Nanosystems Initiative Munich (NIM), and the Center for Advances Photon Science (CAPS). The money will be used mainly to finance new groups and personnel, and to improve infrastructure:

http://www.en.uni-muenchen.de/lmu_excellent/index.html

<http://www.cipsm.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>

E.-L. Winnacker to lead new European Research Council

From January 2007, former president of the DFG and founding director of the Gene Center Prof. Winnacker heads the newly established European Research Council in Bruxelles. The ERC will fund excellent junior and senior research groups throughout Europe.

Seminar series and happy hour

With the beginning of 2007 there are changes in our weekly Gene Center/SFB646 seminar series. Seminars will now always take place on Mondays at 5 pm sharp (17 s.t.) and will be followed by a happy hour with beer & brezn at 6 pm in the cafeteria. The student lunch will be replaced by a host lunch organized at the host's liberty. Excellent speakers are coming up:

<http://www.lmb.uni-muenchen.de/mainframes/seminars.htm>

First Roemer awards

We congratulate Katharina Buettner, Mario Halic, and Laurent Lariviere for obtaining one of the first Roemer research awards! The first award ceremony took place on December 8, 2006 with Nenad Ban as the first Roemer lecturer. At the end of each year, prizes for the best Master, PhD and postdoctoral performance will be awarded by the Roemer foundation:

<http://www.cup.uni-muenchen.de/roemer/index.php>

Annual Gene Center Retreat 2007

This year's annual retreat will be on May 11-13, 2007 in Wildbad-Kreuth.

2nd International Gene Center/SFB646 Symposium

The symposium will take place on October 12-13, 2007. Many distinguished speakers have already accepted our invitation.

Transregio 5 Symposium

The symposium of the Transregio 5 "Chromatin" will take place on September 13-15, 2007.

Ringberg Meetings

This year's 23rd Ringberg Meeting "Academia meets Industry," organized by Bio-M and the Gene Center, hosted P. Bork and B. Jacobsen as evening speakers. The 24th Ringberg Meeting will take place January 4-5, 2008.