

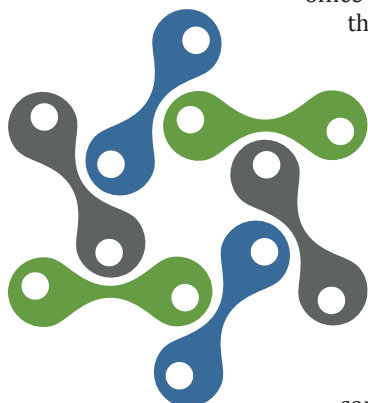
The GSCN central office in profile

The central office of the German Stem Cell Network e.V. (GSCN) is currently based at the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) in Berlin-Buch. Thanks to the support of the MDC, it was possible from 2012 to undertake important preparatory work, leading up to the first phase of start-up funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in March 2013.

The central office is where the threads of the network's various activities converge. The employees work closely with the executive and the extended board of the GSCN. It is here that the requests and concerns of the GSCN members and the working groups are addressed and implemented within the program's framework of possibilities. Among other duties, the GSCN central office takes care of membership administration and is responsible for organizing the general assembly and the international annual conference. The office is also tasked with preparing the working group- and committee meetings and organizing thematic symposia and workshops. Within the scope of these events, the GSCN central office and the network panels aim to jointly identify needs for action and convert these into concrete activities. The events are also important for recruiting new members.

Other responsibilities for the central office include the compilation of the GSCN annual magazine – the very first issue is in your hands – and the production of other informational materials. The office also attends to the development and construction of the GSCN website, the online communication platform, and a database of experts. The central office operates in cooperation with national and international partners in order to implement the objectives of the GSCN. In particular, collaboration with international organizations is of central importance for the future development of this exciting field of research. Today, stem cell researchers have new opportunities to network globally with one another, and the GSCN will be a key part of this process. To this end, the GSCN central office will encourage and facilitate the expansion of international research consortia, and cooperation efforts between education, research and industry.

Future plans at the GSCN include public events, press events and parliamentary evenings on stem cell research. These events will be coordinated and logistically prepared in consultation with the correspon-



As Managing Director, **Dr. Daniel Besser** is responsible for the management of the central office of the German Stem Cell Network. Already in the initial phases, the biologist accompanied the founding and development of the network in the role of coordinator. Besser can also look back on 20 years of recognized expertise in the field of molecular biology. His work on stem cell research began in 2002 as a scientist in the group of Ali Brivanlou at Rockefeller University in New York. From 2004 to 2011, he headed a research group at the MDC on the topic of stem cells. In this capacity, he has actively participated in a variety of events and organized conferences on the subject of stem cells.



Ulrike Papra has supported the GSCN central office since June 2013 in the role of assistant. She completed her studies on International Information Management at the University of Hildesheim, with a focus on Information- and Communication Sciences, Business Studies and Media Studies. Her seven years of experience as a senior project coordinator at the event- and communications agency MCI Group has provided her with proven expertise in the planning and implementation of national and international conferences in the areas of medicine and science.

ding working groups. The intention here is to establish a central platform on the topic of stem cell research – for the researchers themselves (information on funding programs), the general public (information for patients and schools), the press (position statements on current events), and politics (policy recommendations). In order to establish greater proximity to the general public and policy makers, the central office of the GSCN will move to Berlin's city center in late 2015. To further expand GSCN public relations efforts, the central office team will as of this year be reinforced by a person for communication.

Central office, German Stem Cell Network (GSCN) e.V.
c/o Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine
(MDC) Berlin-Buch

Robert-Rössle-Str. 10

13125 Berlin, Germany

Tel: +49 30 9406 24-88/-87

Fax: +49 30 9406 – 24-86

Email: d.besser@mdc-berlin.de

ulrike.papra@mdc-berlin.de