



GermanStemCellNetwork

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual GSCN Conference

23 – 25 September 2019

Max Delbrück Center (MDC) Berlin

[www.gscn.org](http://www.gscn.org)



Dear GSCN members, friends and colleagues,

September 2019

Two and a half more weeks to go to our Annual Conference in Berlin: We are looking forward to our meeting and the preparations are running high, it will be great to meet again! But before we gather, we are glad to announce our new GSCN awardees 2019 – come and hear their lectures on 24 Sept. at the Presidential Symposium.

- 1) GSCN Awards 2019 announced
- 2) GSCN Conference: Reminder for few free spots at workshops
- 3) Invitation to GSCN Public Outreach Event in Berlin on 25 Sept.
- 4) News from the field July & August 2019

## 1) The GSCN Awards 2019 – Congratulations to:

- The "GSCN 2019 Young Investigator Award" goes to [Dr. Nico Lachmann](#) from the Institute for Experimental Hematology at Hannover Medical School (MHH).
- The "GSCN 2019 Female Scientist Award" goes to [Prof. Dr. Ana Martin-Villalba](#) from the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg.
- The "GSCN 2019 Publication of the Year Award" goes to [Dr. Germán Camargo Ortega](#) (Cell System Dynamics Group, ETH Zurich) and [Prof. Dr. Magdalena Götz](#) (Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Research at Helmholtz Zentrum München and Chair of Physiological Genomics at the Biomedical Centre of LMU) for the publication "[The centrosome protein Akna regulates neurogenesis via microtubule organization](#)", 2019, in the journal *Nature* (Camargo Ortega, G et al., 2019, *Nature* 567, 113-117, doi: 10.1038/s41586-019-0962)

[Please read more about the GSCN Awards: Press release "Discover the potential of stem cells"](#)

## 2) GSCN Conference: Few free spots at workshops for all

There are a few free spots available at the following workshops along the conference:

**22.9.: Non-PI meeting (in English)**

Sunday, 22 September 2019, 09:00 - 17:00, Max Delbrück Center in Berlin-Mitte (BIMSB)

The non-PI meeting offers the unique opportunity to discuss not only your most recent and exciting data, but to also cast some light on seemingly tough problems and hurdles that you are struggling with in advancing your project. Get together with PhD students and PostDocs from various stem cell labs within the GSCN to share ideas, experiences, potential troubles and unanswered questions in an informal setting. We will dig deeper into your research results, especially roadblocks and problems, to discuss them from various perspectives.

Participation is free of charge, a social evening on 22 Sept. and accommodation on the 21 Sept. will be covered by the GSCN. Please register to the non-PI meeting along with the regular registration for the conference:

<http://www.gscn.org/Conferences/2019/Registration.aspx> or write an E-Mail to Galina Hoppe ([galina.hoppe@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:galina.hoppe@mdc-berlin.de))

### **GSCN Career Development Workshop (in German): Besser argumentieren – überzeugen und begeistern**

2-tägiger Intensivkurs (26.-27.09.2019) am Max-Delbrück-Center in Berlin-Mitte (BIMSB)  
(<https://www.nawik.de/seminare/dialog-und-diskussion/>)

Der Kurs richtet sich an junge Gruppenleiter/innen und Postdocs. Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos (max. 12 Teilnehmer/innen). Die Kurssprache ist Deutsch.

Referentin: Kristin Raabe, Nationales Institut für Wissenschaftskommunikation (NaWik).

Bewerbung mit kurzem Motivationsschreiben per Mail bitte an Insa Schröder:

[i.schroeder@gsi.de](mailto:i.schroeder@gsi.de)

### **Orion-Workshop: Open Science and Your Research**

25 Sept., 16:30 – 18:00 h, MDC, Berlin

Open Science concepts and tools have the potential to transform the current scientific system for the greater good of all, but what does it mean for you? How can you and your work benefit from the Open Science movement? This workshop will establish what Open Science is and why it is needed. There will be an overview of the main areas of Open Science: Open Access, Open Data, Public Engagement. In addition, there will be some practical tips on changes researchers can make towards Open Science, the potential career benefits of Open Science, and information on what resources the ORION project can provide.

The session is suitable for those with very little or basic knowledge of open science. Snacks included. The workshop is free-of-charge, registration is required:

<https://forms.gle/3EULWkvAAEsxr2rD9>

For more information, please contact: [orion@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:orion@mdc-berlin.de)

### **Meet-the-expert tables at the GSCN conference**

24 Sept. & 25 Sept., 13:00 – 14:00 h

Following international experts offer a meet-the-expert table in the lunch breaks:

24 Sept: James Wells, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, US

Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland, US

Claudia Lengerke, University Basel, Switzerland

25 Sept: Anne Grapin-Botton, MPI for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden

Marieke Essers, DKFZ, Heidelberg

Pekka Katajisto, University of Helsinki, Finland

If you want to grab the chance and discuss with one of these scientists, please reserve a spot and write a e-mail to Galina Hoppe ([galina.hoppe@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:galina.hoppe@mdc-berlin.de))

### 3) Invitation to GSCN Public Outreach Event in Berlin on 25 Sept.

#### Zelltherapien mit Stammzellen? Aktuelle Forschung und Zukunftsaussichten

Mittwoch, 25. September 2019, 18:30 – 21:00 Uhr

Luisensaal

Luisenstraße 56, 10117 Berlin

Podiumsdiskussion zur aktuellen Forschung mit Wissenschaftler\*innen und Ärzt\*innen:

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Geiger, Universität Ulm

Prof. Dr. Petra Reinke, BIH Center for Regenerative Therapies (BCRT), Berlin

Prof. Dr. Simone Spuler, Max-Delbrück-Centrum für molekulare Medizin (MDC), Berlin

Prof. Dr. Lorenz Studer, Sloan Kettering Institute, NY, USA

Moderation: Dr. Stefanie Seltmann (BIH)

Die Erforschung von Stammzellen liefert wichtige Erkenntnisse für die Medizin: Wissenschaftler\*innen wollen Zelltherapien aus Stammzellen entwickeln, mit denen sie bislang unheilbare Krankheiten wie Parkinson, Krebs oder degenerative Muskelerkrankungen behandeln wollen. Bei der Podiumsdiskussion sprechen international renommierte Wissenschaftler\*innen und Ärzt\*innen darüber, wo die Stammzellforschung heute steht, bei welchen Krankheiten heute schon moderne Zelltherapien helfen können und welche Zukunftsaussichten sich für Klinik und Anwendung abzeichnen. Das Publikum ist eingeladen, ebenfalls Fragen zu stellen.

### 3) News from the field July / August 2019

A breakthrough to rescue the Northern White Rhino (GSCN)

05.07.2019

An international team of scientists has now successfully created hybrid embryos from Southern White Rhino (SWR) eggs and NWR sperm using assisted reproduction techniques (ART). This is the first, ever reported, generation of blastocysts (a pre-implantation embryos) of rhinos in a test tube.

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Breakthrough in stem cell research

18.07.2019

For the first time ever, an international research group from Germany, Great Britain and China has succeeded in producing a particularly versatile type of stem cell in pigs and humans and multiplying them under laboratory conditions. With the help of a special nutrient solution, the scientists have succeeded in producing a particularly viable cell variety: embryonic stem cell lines with expanded potential (EPSC). The results were published in the journal "Nature Cell Biology".

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A genetic chaperone for healthy aging?

07.08.2019

Researchers at the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) have identified an epigenetic mechanism that appears to strongly influence healthy aging. It's a protein that controls muscle integrity, lifespan and levels of an essential sugar.

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Successful egg harvest breaks new ground in saving the northern white rhinoceros

23.08.2019

There are only two northern white rhinos left worldwide, both of them female. Saving this representative of megafauna from extinction seems impossible under these circumstances, yet an international consortium of scientists and conservationists just completed a procedure that could enable assisted reproduction techniques to do just that.

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