

alumni

DEUTSCHES KREBSFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM



Like Yun Niu, Qin Su and Doris Mayer, many participants of the Alumni meeting took the opportunity for a pleasant trip on the solar boat on the Neckar river.

Dear DKFZ Alumni and Friends,

This Newsletter mainly reviews the splendid scientific and social events at the 4th General Alumni Meeting at the DKFZ in the middle of June. For the first time, Alumni of the Heidelberg Life Science Lab were actively involved in this meeting, which was preceded by a Polish-German Workshop. All invited speakers of the Alumni Meeting were Alumni of the DKFZ or the Life-Science Lab. The abstracts of their talks are only a pale reflection of their outstanding presentations which stimulated lively discussions. This also applies to the informative contributions by leading current DKFZ scientists listed under "Meet the Experts" and one of the almost 50 posters that had been selected for a prize. Several comments have confirmed my impression that this Alumni Meeting was a great success, largely fulfilling our motto "Outstanding Alumni meet the scientific community of the DKFZ".

The two Polish-German Workshops briefly described in this issue continued a series of bilateral meetings starting in 2008. Both the text and accompanying figures document that within this short period an almost familiar atmosphere has developed by the scientific and social exchange, alternating between Gliwice and Heidelberg.

A detailed report on a visit of the Nobel Laureate Harald zur Hausen, a founding member of our Association, to India, prepared by another prominent Alumnus, Maqsood Siddiqi from Kolkata, shows that zur Hausen's lectures are scientific highlights all over the world, not to mention the Alumni Meeting in Heidelberg.

An important recent activity of the DKFZ and the Heidelberg University Hospital is reviewed by Christof von Kalle: the establishment of a Heidelberg School of Oncology. The idea of such a school was

actually born in the Board of the Alumni Association some years ago. Initially, two small working groups discussed possible aims and structures, and submitted a short memorandum to the DKFZ Management Board. Fortunately, the basic idea was taken up and Christof von Kalle has meanwhile developed a professional proposal with a much broader scope than the initial considerations.

Also worth reading are two colourful narrations by former guest scientists who apparently always know how to make the best of their lives, two reports on attractive excursions with present guest researchers, and finally information on people who have been honored, reflecting the ongoing scientific excellence of the DKFZ.

As detailed in Konrad Buschbeck's record on the General Assembly 2010, I did not run for election again. In my place Dietrich Keppler has been elected, who will also be responsible for this newsletter in the future. I am grateful to all who supported and complemented my work since the foundation of our Association, particularly the members of the Board, Gerhard van Kaick and Elfriede Mang for running the excellent guest research program, and Dagmar Anders for carefully editing and desktop publishing the Newsletter. It has been a pleasure to cooperate with all of them.

With my best wishes for the future of the new Board and all members and friends of our Association I remain with kind regards,

Peter Bannasch

Heidelberg School of Oncology	2
4 th General Alumni Meeting	3
German-Polish Research Exchange	12
Science and Soccer	14
Regional UICC Office in Asia	15
High-Tech and Ancient Architecture	19

India's Researchers Welcome Nobel Laureate zur Hausen

by Maqsood Siddiqi

Having received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2008, Prof. Harald zur Hausen followed an invitation of the Cancer Foundation of India (CFI), Kolkata. The most awaited visit during December 2-4, 2009, represented a landmark event for the CFI as well as for Indo-German scientific co-operation. At the same time it provided an unprecedented opportunity for his numerous admirers and DKFZ alumni in the country to meet the Nobel Laureate.

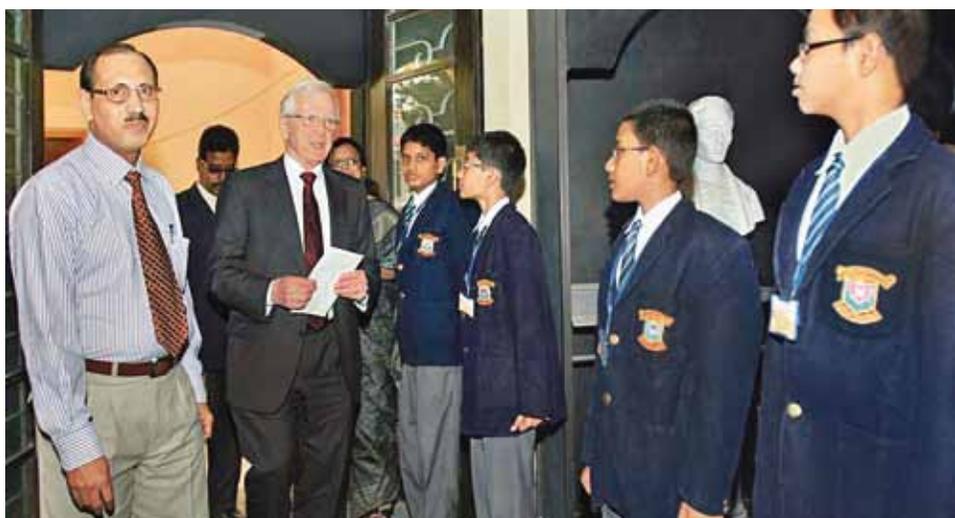
The official program of Prof. zur Hausen's visit began with an interactive session with school children at the Birla Institute of Science & Technology Museum. The purpose of this meeting was to promote science education among young students and to provide them with the unique opportunity to meet a Nobel Laureate face to face.

Afterwards, zur Hausen visited the late Mother Teresa's House where he was welcomed by the Senior Nuns of the Missionaries of Charity. As a mark of respect he lit a candle at the Mother's Memorial. "A moving experience", as he remarked soon afterwards.

At the famous Press Club of Kolkata, Prof. zur Hausen faced questions on the efficacy of the HPV vaccine in the prevention of cervical cancer and affordability of the drug in developing or low to medium resource countries. More than hundred journalists from national and international press and television attended the press conference.

The tight program also took the virologist to the Educational Multimedia Research Center. There, a TV interview was recorded for a national broadcast for students in India. Later, at the Bose Institute, a premier scientific research institute of India, students and scientific staff got

Maqsood Siddiqi (left) and the Health Minister of West Bengal at the Cervical Cancer Symposium



Meeting school children at the Birla Institute of Science & Technology Museum

the opportunity for scientific exchange with the Nobel laureate.

During his visit, Prof. zur Hausen delivered the 1st Foundation Lecture of the Cancer Foundation of India on "The search for infectious agents in human cancers: a continuous challenge" to an audience of nearly 500 invited guests, among them a number of DKFZ alumni and cancer researchers from all over India. Beside different forms of infections crucial to the formation of human cancers, zur Hausen forecast that many more infectious agents need to be investigated for their role in human cancers.

A one-day National Symposium with speakers from science and industry focused on Cervical Cancer Control in India. Prof. zur Hausen delivered the keynote address on "Papilloma viruses in human cancers: from basic research to preventive vaccines". Two sessions on screening, epidemiology and management of cervical cancer and on HPV infection and preventive vaccines were followed by a panel discussion in which

Lighting a candle at the Mother Teresa's House was "A moving experience"

the participants expressed their views on the plans and strategies to control cervical cancer in the country. A poster competition by young scientists on recent research on cervical cancer in India concluded the symposium. Zur Hausen took an active part in the scientific discussions and presented his viewpoint on cervical cancer control in India.

On the last day Prof. zur Hausen met the Chief Minister of the state of West Bengal, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. Dr Heinz Wirth, Counselor Science & Technology of the German Embassy in New Delhi, Prof. Maqsood Siddiqi, CFI, and Dr Surjya Kanta Mishra, Health Minister of West Bengal, also participated in the discussions on initiating cervical cancer screening in the state. A dinner in honor of Prof. zur Hausen hosted by Klaus Tesch, Deputy Consul General of Germany in Kolkata, concluded the Nobel Laureate's visit.

Prof. Maqsood Siddiqi is Chairman of the Cancer Foundation of India and an alumnus of the DKFZ

The virologist visiting the Bose institute, a premier scientific research institute of India

