

Women's Careers & Networks 2025

Booklet



About

WoCaNet is a symposium series initiated in 2010 to empower young female scientists by fostering awareness of their potential and providing networking opportunities in an interactive environment. The symposium brings together early-career researchers with accomplished women from diverse professional backgrounds, including academia, industry, journalism, and politics. Over the years, WoCaNet has featured lectures, discussions, career fairs, workshops, and networking dinners, all conducted in English, and has continually evolved to address topics such as leadership, career transitions, diversity in science, and work-life balance.

2025 Organizing Team

WoCaNet 2025 is organized by science MSc and PhD students from the University of Göttingen, the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organisation, the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences, the German Primate Center (*Deutsches Primatenzentrum Leibniz Institute*), and the University Medical Center (*Universitätsmedizin*) in Göttingen.

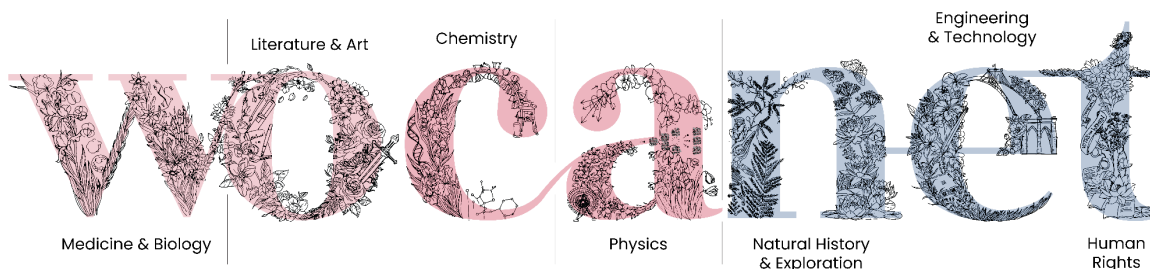
Mara Uhl - Chair
Elisabeth Koert - Co-Chair
Judith Hidalgo Pareja - Program & Speakers Lead
Jessica Grabowski - Finance Lead
Nehir Ekin Şahin - Logistics Lead

Evelyn Tanaya Sutiono - PR, Design & IT Lead
Aleya M Diniz - Program & Speakers
Yastika Biswas - PR, Design & IT
Daniela Grimm - Finance
Charlotte Bendler - Logistics

Program

WoCaNet Program 2025

Our poster, explained:



For our poster this year, Evelyn has highlighted 22 remarkable women from seven fields. More about them on [PDF WoCaNet Poster Explanation.pdf](#) or [on her website](#).

Workshops

Unconscious Bias

Unconscious biases shape our perceptions and influence our decisions, often leading to unintentional stereotyping and limiting diversity in the workplace. This workshop provides an in-depth understanding of how unconscious thinking patterns develop and how they can be addressed to create a more inclusive environment. The workshop will be given by Stefanie Lohaus from EAF Berlin.

What to expect:

- An interactive format combining personal reflection, group discussions, and practical exercises.
- Exploration of the cognitive processes behind unconscious biases and their impact on decision-making.
- Strategies to actively recognize and counteract unconscious biases in professional settings.
- A forum for sharing best practices and developing actionable steps for fostering diversity.
- Half day workshop, registration fee is €5.

Efficient Time & Energy Management for Researchers

Managing time and energy effectively is essential for researchers who face constant challenges such as tight deadlines, shifting research directions, experimental setbacks, and funding rejections. This workshop provides practical strategies to help you stay focused, manage stress, set healthy boundaries, and develop habits that support a successful career in academia and beyond. The workshop will be given by Hanna Sängner from GoodThoughts Coaching.

What you will learn:

- How to identify key factors that influence your motivation and productivity.
- Techniques for organizing tasks, prioritizing effectively, and setting achievable goals.
- Strategies to overcome perfectionism and procrastination.
- Approaches to maintaining resilience and managing stress in a demanding research environment.
- Half day workshop, registration fee is €5.

Women Empowerment

This workshop is designed for women who aspire to become leaders in male-dominated environments. As a female leader, you may face unique challenges, and this seminar focuses on understanding those challenges and finding pathways to success. The workshop will be given by Laura Lazar from be cosmopolite.

What you will gain:

- A deeper understanding of unconscious gender bias, its impact on both women and men, and strategies to build a successful career despite it.
- Insights into the differences between female and male communication styles and behaviors, along with practical approaches to navigate gender-based conflicts.
- Increased confidence in your role as a female leader.
- An opportunity to discuss personal challenges and receive valuable insights from a trusted group of women in similar career paths.
- A personalized strategy to enhance confidence and motivation for future career opportunities.
- Full day workshop, registration fee is €10.

Speakers' Profile

Petra Broistedt

We are honored to welcome Mayor Petra Broistedt of the City of Göttingen as the speaker for the opening remarks at our symposium. As a long-standing advocate for social equity, education, and inclusive policy-making, Mayor Broistedt brings with her decades of experience in public service and leadership, spanning roles in social work, youth development, and municipal governance.

Her dedication to promoting opportunities for women and underrepresented groups is deeply rooted in her professional journey and her work across various levels of government. We are proud to have her open this event and help set the tone for a day of inspiration, dialogue, and empowerment.

Current role: Mayor of the City of Göttingen

Year	Role
1984	Abitur at the Gymnasium im Schloss in Wolfenbüttel
1985–1989	Studied Social Work at the Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel University of Applied Sciences; graduated as a qualified social worker/pedagogue
1990–1991	Head of Department at BNVHS e.V., Training and Further Education Centre Bodenwerder
1992–1995	Project Manager at the association Projekt Begegnung e.V., Holzminden
1996–2004	Women's Representative for the district of Holzminden
2004–2008	Personal Assistant to the District Administrator, Holzminden District
2008–2012	Deputy Head of Youth Department, City of Göttingen
2013–2016	District Councillor, Hameln-Pyrmont district – responsible for Planning / Construction, Inclusion / Education / Youth / Social Affairs, and the Migration and Participation Unit
2016–October 2021	City Councillor, City of Göttingen – responsible for Social Affairs, Culture, and Health

Since November 2021	Mayor of the City of Göttingen
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Dr. Hanna Zwaka

“From Invisible to Influential - Amplifying Women’s Voices in Science”

Navigating a career in science as a woman comes with unique challenges—being overlooked, struggling to be heard, and facing biases that only grow with seniority. Yet, despite these obstacles, mentorship and support networks have been my driving force to stay in academia. In this talk, I'll share my journey from Europe to Harvard and back to leading my own research group, the hurdles I faced along the way, and how mentorship—both as a mentee and a mentor—has shaped my path. I'll discuss why finding allies, amplifying each other's voices, and actively building networks are essential for creating a more inclusive scientific community. Most importantly, I'll leave you with practical strategies to make yourself visible, advocate for others, and turn struggle into strength.

Current role: Group Leader at Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology

Year	Task / Position
2015	PhD in Neuroscience, Freie Universität Berlin
2016-2022	Postdoc in Systems Neuroscience at Harvard
2012	Founded and leads a research group at Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology, Magdeburg
Ongoing	Mentors students, promotes diversity as Equal Opportunity Officer, and active in science outreach and communication

Dr. Charlotte Navntoft

“My Transition from Academia to Industry - A Heartbreak or Dance of Joy?”

The talk is all about what I learned along the way while making the leap from the PhD to the industry. I will share my take on doing research in the industry - what is exciting, what is less great, and which skills from my PhD have turned out to be surprisingly useful.

If you are feeling a bit lost in the rat race and wondering whether moving to the industry is the right move, I hope this talk may give you some clarity (or at least a fresh perspective).

Current role: Senior Scientist at Demant

Year	Role
2013	BSc in Molecular Biomedicine, University of Copenhagen (with exchange at University of Melbourne)
2015	MSc in Molecular Biomedicine, University of Copenhagen (with exchange at Harvard University)
2015-2017	Research Assistant at University of Copenhagen and University of Basel
2020	PhD in Neuroscience, University of Basel & Technical University of Denmark
2020-current	Scientist and then Senior Scientist at Demant A/S, specializing in hearing therapeutics, neuroscience, and electrophysiology

Dr. Marieke Schölnick

“1+1=3 : How running a lab together is more than worth it”

A career in science is not only very exciting and fulfilling, but can also be frustrating, disappointing, and lonely at times. How to better overcome these challenges than by facing them together? In my talk, I will share with you the journey that my Co-PI Martha and I undertook to build and run a lab together – and place our endeavour in the wider context of alternative models of leadership in science.

Current role: Co-Group Leader at the Ernst Strüngmann Institute (ESI) for Neuroscience, Frankfurt

Year	Role
1999-2004	BSc and MSc biology, Utrecht University
2005-2009	PhD in Neuroscience, University College London (partly at National Institute of Health, Washington DC, USA)
2009-2011	Postdoc at University College London
2011-2019	Postdoc at Ernst Strüngmann Institute (ESI) for Neuroscience
2020-current	Leads research lab at ESI on spontaneous brain activity and its effect on cognition and behavior, together with Martha Havenith

Dr. Mhairi Stewart

“Proactive Career Shaping: Making Opportunities & Opening Doors”

What attitudes, activities, and actions are critical in proactively shaping your own career? From personal experience, good and bad, I want to inspire you to be more proactive in asking the most from yourself, and from your working life.

I spent my early 30's letting others shape my career, but I realised I had skills that were not being used and ambitions not being realised. The next few years brought about a change of perspective, rigorous self questioning of what I actually wanted to do, and what difference I wanted to make. From then on I took a very proactive approach to career building. These are the skills and insights I will pass on to you.

Current role: Head of Public Engagement and Impact at the Museum for Naturkunde Berlin

Year	Role
2003	PhD in molecular parasitology, University of Glasgow
2003-2015	Postdoc at the University of Glasgow and University of Heidelberg

2016-2022	Head of Public Engagement at the University of St Andrews
2018 & 2020	'Cell Block Science' awarded Herald Higher Education Award for Partnership & won Falling Walls Engage Award
2022	Acting Head for Berlin School of Public Engagement
2023-current	Deputy Head of Public Engagement and Impact, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Dr. Laila Al-Halabi-Frenzel

"Is Sustainability a Typical Women's Issue?"

While topics such as sustainability and avoiding animal testing were ridiculed just a few years ago, these issues are becoming increasingly relevant, not only socially but also economically. The journey of the biotech company Abcalis started 5 years ago with the vision of banning animal testing from the laboratory and is now more relevant than ever.

Current role: Managing Director of Abcalis GmbH

Year	Role
1999	Diploma degree in Biology, Hannover
2004	PhD in Biology, Technical University Braunschweig
2008	R&D / BD in the in vitro diagnostics sector, in Schwarin
2019 - current	CEO of Abcalis GmbH, Braunschweig

Dr. Marika Nestor

“From Lab Rat to Business Cat: An Academic's Journey from Innovation to Implementation”

The transition from academia to entrepreneurship is rarely a straight path, especially for women in science. In this talk, I will share my journey from being a cancer researcher at Uppsala University to co-founding and being CEO at a biotech company—bridging the gap between innovation and real-world application.

In this talk, I'll share key lessons, insights, and advice for those looking to turn scientific discovery into real-world impact.

Current role: Professor at Uppsala University and CEO at Akiram Therapeutics

Year	Role
2000	MSc in Molecular Biotechnology at Uppsala University
2006	PhD in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology
2012	Associate Professor in Biomedical Radiation Sciences at Uppsala University
2022	Co-founded Akiram Therapeutics
2023	Akiram raised 68 million SEK to advance clinical development
2024	Launched Phase 1 clinical trial for a novel radioconjugate (177Lu-AKIR001) targeting aggressive, treatment-resistant cancers
Ongoing	Professor at Uppsala University, research group leader, bridging academia and industry in precision cancer treatment

Prof. Dr. Christine Rose

“How I Became A Scientist: a personal account of my career”

There are probably many different ways to become a university professor, a profession that is actually two or even three different professions: scientist, academic teacher, and (last but not least) administrator. In my presentation, I will talk about my career path and the key moments that kept me in academia.

Not only my continuous development in the scientific and academic field, but also personal developments and choices have played a role. I will also talk about the challenges I faced after becoming a full professor, including when I started to get involved in mentoring and supporting young (female) scientists.

Current role: Head of the Institute of Neurobiology in Heinrich Heine University (HHU) Düsseldorf

Year	Role
1993	PhD, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany
1994-2003	Postdoc at Yale University, University of Saarland and then LMU/TU Munich
2003-2005	Heisenberg Fellowship and group leader at LMU Munich
2005-current	Professor and Head of Neurobiology Institute, HHU
2006-2018	Faculty leadership roles at HHU, including Director of Biology Unit (2006-2007)
2012-present	Speaker at iBrain Graduate School, TANDEM, and Selma-Meyer Program
2021-2023	President of the German Neuroscience Society (NWG)
2023-present	Advisor for HHU's Strategic Research Fund

Panel Discussion - Beyond the Lab: *Addressing Inequality in Science*

The panel discussion on June 5th will explore the systemic inequalities present in the scientific community and discuss actionable strategies for fostering a more inclusive and equitable research environment. Experts from different disciplines will answer your questions on barriers faced by underrepresented groups in science. The discussion and following workshop will highlight initiatives and policy changes that people and institutions can implement to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in academia and beyond. Attendees will gain insights into how they can contribute to creating a fairer scientific landscape.

Panel discussion format: 1 hour panel discussion with experts and 1 hour workshop “Let’s Make a Change” to work in small groups on pressing issues in our university

Moderator: **Dr. Katrin Wodzicki**, Chairman of the Staff Council of University of Göttingen and experienced staff developer and moderator

Dr. Tuğçe Aral

Developmental Psychologist and Co-Host of (Re)searching Diversity Podcast

Tuğçe Aral is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Potsdam and a non-resident research fellow at the College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research, funded by the Leibniz Educational Research Network and the Jacobs Foundation. As a developmental psychologist trained in social, cultural and educational psychology, she uses an interdisciplinary and multi-method approach to study youth development and socialisation in the context of inequality. In particular, she seeks to understand how children and adolescents from all backgrounds (immigrant descent, racialised, gender diverse) develop embedded in social contexts (family, school, broader society). She completed her PhD in Psychology at the University of Potsdam with a focus on ethnic-racial socialisation in Germany. Her dissertation has been nominated for the University of Potsdam - Better World Award 2024. In line with her international background, she does research in the context of Germany, the US and Turkey. She co-hosts the (Re)searching Diversity Podcast, which expands the stories of who can be a researcher by increasing the visibility of inspiring social scientists and research on migration-related diversity.

Dr. Sandra Klausing

Head of Product Development Cell Line, Media, Testing Solutions (CMTS), Sartorius

Dr. Sandra Klausing is a biotechnologist with a PhD and over 12 years of experience in the

biopharmaceutical industry. Her expertise focuses on cell line, media, and process development for therapeutic proteins as well as cell and gene therapies. Dr. Klausung began her career at the start-up Teutocell, which later became Xell AG, where she was part of the management team and led research and development efforts. Following the acquisition of Xell by Sartorius in 2021, she took on a global role in product development at Sartorius in 2023. Dr. Klausung lives in Bielefeld and is the mother of seven-year-old twins.

Dr. Julia Gruhlich (she/her)

Project leader in the EU project "SMARTUP" at the Institute for Diversity Research at the University of Göttingen

Dr. Julia Gruhlich is the project leader for the EU-funded project "SMARTUP" at the Göttingen Diversity Research Institute. The joint project "Smart(ening up the modern) home: Redesigning power dynamics through domestic space digitalization" (SMARTUP) explores how digitalization impacts power dynamics within households and living spaces, focusing on Smart Homes. She studied, researched, and worked at various universities in Germany and abroad. Most recently, she was an interim professor of Work, Economy and Ecology at the Philipps University of Marburg and an interim professor of Sociology at the University of Paderborn. Since October 2024, Julia Gruhlich has been working in Gender Studies at the University of Göttingen.

Johanna Prien-Kaplan (they/them)

Coordination Gender & Diversity Consulting, MHH

After ending their own scientific career, Johanna Prien-Kaplan now works at MHH (Medizinische Hochschule Hannover) to support third-party funded researchers from marginalized groups and provide them personally or their research alliances with individually tailored measures. Especially in Life Sciences, expectations on researchers are extremely high and what is considered an ideal career path is not possible to achieve for everyone. The measures Johanna organizes thus include not only workshops for empowerment and soft skill training for the affected researchers, but are also aimed to raise awareness among privileged co-researchers and PIs. Johanna also performs Unconscious Bias training as well as Allyship workshops that can reveal a lot of knowledge and awareness gaps. Johanna studied Regional Studies and Central Asian Studies at Humboldt University Berlin and carried out field research on gender roles and religious practices in Bhutan. Additionally to their job at MHH, Johanna works as a freelancer performing workshops on anti-discrimination, Critical Whiteness and LGBTQIA+ topics.

Career Fair Booths - Profiles

Those with asterisk (*) will be presenting a short talk at the beginning of the career fair (at 12:40, June 5th). Each organization will have a booth.

*Goenomics**

GOENOMICS delivers cutting-edge genome annotation solutions powered by breakthrough research. Serving industry leaders in plant and animal breeding, biotechnology, and academia, they specialize in high-precision annotations for plant, animal, and fungal genomes. Their proprietary mendle technology sets a new standard by dramatically reducing false positives, ensuring highly accurate and reliable genome annotations for your research and innovation success.

Cuvillier Verlag

Founded in 1989 at the University of Göttingen, Cuvillier Verlag has made it its mission to publish knowledge and research exclusively and professionally. With worldwide collaborations and publications, the long-established publishing house has established an international presence.

Their focus is on science, business, and industry. Its academic program spans the humanities, social sciences, law, engineering, and natural sciences. Over 10,000 academic titles have already been successfully placed on the different platforms through Cuvillier Verlag – with the highest levels of customer satisfaction.

With 35 years of expertise, this scientific publisher publishes dissertations, master's theses, habilitations, conference proceedings, congress proceedings, research volumes, specialist articles, studies and much more.

*Miltenyi Biotec**

Miltenyi Biotec was founded in 1989 based on the invention of MACS® Technology. Their technological solutions have made an important contribution to the advancement of biomedical science ever since. Today their more than 18,000 products play a vital role in paving the way for the medicine of tomorrow. They offer comprehensive solutions for our customers' workflows, from basic research to translation into clinical applications.

Their integrated technologies span a broad range of applications, from cellular research to genetic sequencing, high-content imaging, and commercial-scale manufacturing of cellular

therapies.

"We are scientists ourselves and share our customers' mindset. We are passionate about unraveling nature's complexity. This is what drives our research and inspires our products."

Sartorius*

Sartorius is a global leader in supporting life science research and biopharmaceutical development. With a mission to simplify and accelerate scientific progress, Sartorius empowers researchers and engineers to drive the discovery and production of innovative, more affordable therapies.

As a value-added partner, Sartorius offers a full suite of services from conceptual design and contract testing to detailed engineering, validation, and preventative maintenance ensuring long-term productivity and efficiency in bioprocessing. Their expertise spans bioprocess consulting, cell culture media services, biologics testing, and instrument service.

Sartorius also provides highly flexible assay platforms and a broad range of reagents designed to support advanced research in immunology, oncology, immuno-oncology, neuroscience, cell and gene therapy, antibody and small molecule discovery, and virology. Whether conducting cell viability assays or analyzing biomolecular interactions, Sartorius delivers physiologically relevant data faster-fueling the next generation of scientific breakthroughs.

GALAXY Europe

Galaxy is a scientific workflow, data integration, and data and analysis persistence and publishing platform that aims to make computational biology accessible to research scientists that do not have computer programming experience. Users can easily run tools without writing code or using the CLI; all via a user-friendly web interface. Galaxy captures all the metadata from an analysis, making it completely reproducible. Users share and publish analyses via interactive pages that can enhance analyses with user annotations. Galaxy can run on anything, from a laptop, to large clusters or the cloud.

"Anyone, anywhere in the world should have free, unhindered access to not just my research, but to the research of every great and enquiring mind across the spectrum of human understanding." - Prof. Stephen Hawking

GAUSS career service

The GAUSS Career Service is a service for all junior researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry and in the life and natural sciences at the Göttingen Campus. Besides

offers for career support and advice, the GAUSS Career Service aims at facilitating the networking within the postdoc community in the life and natural sciences as well as the self-organization within and initiatives from the postdoc community.

- Career development workshops on topics in- and outside of academia (e.g. career orientation and planning, application training, leadership skills, grant writing, self-management)
- Career counseling and advice on topics such as elaborating career and job opportunities, clarifying career goals, developing career strategies, CV and application check, and dealing with work-related challenges (in English or German)
- Career Impulse Sessions on diverse career topics and with career talks from natural and life scientists working in diverse positions and work fields (academia, industry, politics, and society)
- Organizational and conceptual Support of events and initiatives from the postdoc community
- Publication of event announcements and hints to career information on the GAUSS Career Blog
- Monthly newsletter including event announcements (GAUSS Career Service and relevant events at Göttingen Campus) as well as aggregated information on relevant and upcoming job adverts, funding opportunities and scientific prizes. Please register [here](#).

Göttingen International

The University of Göttingen is highly reputed throughout the world of academia and research. It maintains research cooperations with institutions of higher education in ninety countries, is engaged in various networks fostering international mobility and provides more than fifty English-language Master and Ph.D. programmes.

In close cooperation with its non-university partners at the Göttingen Campus, the university promotes internationalization in the fields of research, teaching and administration. The long term pursuit of these objectives is carried out by the university's liaison offices in China and India, the International Office and its Welcome Centre, organizations established as part of the institutional strategy with funds from the first programme phase of the Excellence Initiative.

Active partnerships and cooperations strongly connect the University of Göttingen with institutions of higher education in China and India. These include the university's liaison office in China, located on the campus of Nanjing University, the liaison office in India, located at the University of Pune, and the university's close association with the German House for Research and Innovation in New Delhi. The liaison offices provide information on research and teaching

at the University of Göttingen. They also support students and researchers in China, India and Göttingen in all matters concerning a stay abroad or establishing new cooperations.

Hertha-Sponer College (MBExC)

The Hertha Sponer College aims to promote students and early career researchers who intend to pursue an academic career at the interface of the natural sciences and biomedicine. The College's program is based on the specific training needs of students, early career scientists and clinicians at various stages of their career. Training measures are designed to promote scientific and personal development, networking among collegians, with PIs, and the community. To foster early independence, specific fellowships are available for research-oriented clinician scientists and for postdoctoral junior fellows.

The Hertha Sponer College offers two career development tracks: The basic scientist track is dedicated to excellent students as well as early career researchers of the natural and life sciences interested in quantitative, interdisciplinary research. The clinician scientist track promotes excellent medical students and residents by providing a framework that supports them in combining clinical training and practice with research within the scope of MBExC. The educational concept complements existing programs for structured education available on the Göttingen Campus.

Hochschuldidaktik Göttingen

The programme of the section for teaching and learning in higher education addresses university teachers, who want to optimise their teaching techniques in order to encourage and support the motivation, commitment and long term learning of their students. Focussing at the individuality of each learning process, all of our offers allow faculty on campus and online settings to broaden their perspectives and enhance their academic teaching competencies.

Ombuds Office for Good Research Practice at the University of Göttingen*

The preservation and safeguarding of the highest of scientific quality standards in research and the fostering of an atmosphere of openness, creativity and dedication to achievement are of paramount importance for the University of Göttingen. In the realisation of these objectives, compliance with the principles of good research practice plays a pivotal role. Accordingly, the [Ombuds Office](#) - as an independent, cross-institutional institution of the University - supports the prevention of research misconduct, e.g. in the training of scholars, and offers confidential counselling in questions and conflicts related to good research practice.

PostDoc Network

The Göttingen Campus Postdoc Network is a dynamic, peer-led initiative that connects postdoctoral researchers across the Göttingen Campus. Designed *by and for* postdocs, the network fosters communication, collaboration, and professional development within a vibrant research environment.

Open to postdoctoral researchers from all partner institutions of the Göttingen Campus—including late-stage PhD candidates and early-stage group leaders—the network provides resources, events, and opportunities that support career advancement and interdisciplinary exchange. By promoting a strong sense of community, the Göttingen Campus Postdoc Network plays a key role in shaping the future of research in one of Germany's most prestigious academic hubs.

*Alumni Association Göttingen**

The [Göttingen Alumni Network](#) connects more than 30,000 former students and graduates with Göttingen University and its current work, teaching and research. Whether you are looking to keep in touch with old friends and classmates from your time at Göttingen or want to share your ideas, experience and expertise - your contribution makes this network a thriving and lively community. There are ample opportunities for you to network with fellow professionals and likeminded people at Alumni events in Göttingen and in cities across Germany, Asia and the USA.

Dorothea Schlözer Programme

With the Dorothea Schlözer Programme, the University of Göttingen promotes equal opportunities and personnel diversity on the Göttingen campus. Since it was founded in 2009, it has proven to be a central instrument for the equal opportunity-oriented promotion of early career researchers for all faculties (including the Faculty of Medicine). Under the umbrella of the Dorothea Schlözer Programme, various gender equality measures are combined which promote career development of female early career scientists and scholars at various career levels by imparting key academic qualifications, coaching, mentoring, counselling and networking. The qualification of female early career researchers is a core area of gender equality work at the University of Göttingen and serves long-term quality assurance in the filling of executive positions with women.

The focus of the Dorothea Schlözer Programme is on female postdocs and professors in all disciplines: within the framework of the postdoctoral programme positions are annually advertised for female scientists in their early postdoctoral phase. The career coaching programme offers coaching and qualification opportunities to promote the careers of female postdocs with and without management responsibilities. The mentoring programme is aimed at female postdocs and doctoral candidates in the transition phase and offers them structured career advice and support. The programme pillar Coaching for Newly Appointed Female Professors provides professional support for female professors in their entry into the University and in their new role.

Academic Supporters

SFB 1286 Quantitative Synaptology

Synapses are the central information processors in the brain. Their function, efficacy and plasticity are key determinants of all brain functions, and of the corresponding behavioral output. Conversely, aberrant synapse function, so-called synaptopathy, contributes to neurological and psychiatric disorders. Our ultimate objective is to generate a functional computer model of the synapse, which will cover both the presynaptic compartment, the one that provides information, and the postsynaptic one, the compartment that receives and processes information. Our synapse model will be used in testing hypotheses relating to synaptic function and disease, and should reduce the need for experimental tests in this direction, thereby saving costs and increasing the speed of research in the synaptic field.

SFB 1690 Disease Mechanisms and Functional Restoration of Sensory and Motor Systems

CRC 1690 works toward meeting an unmet clinical need: better functional restoration of impaired sensory and motor systems. Progress towards this goal requires an improved understanding of neural processing of sensory and motor information as well as of the disease mechanisms at the molecular, cellular, and network levels. Moreover, harnessing the potential of methods arising from basic research promises new avenues such as for transforming current neuroprostheses using optogenetics. The CRC targets disorders of the sensory and motor systems by combining experimental and theoretical neuroscience with medical sciences to understand disease mechanisms and devise novel strategies for functional restoration. We believe that every individual should be able to pursue a career commensurate with their talents and inclinations, irrespective of gender, ethnic and national background, sexual orientation, religion, physical status, age, social background, and life situation. Moreover, we consider diversity a valuable asset in science which can be of great advantage especially in collaborative projects. Our goal is to actively contribute to overcome any remaining barriers, even if subtle, related to organizational structure, mindset, paucity of mentors, or lack of role models.

KFO5002: Deciphering Genome Dynamics for Subtype-specific Therapy in Pancreatic Cancer

The Clinical Research Unit 5002 (CRU 5002) explores the mechanistic underpinnings of genome dynamics in PDAC progression and exploits genome dynamics with regard to their therapeutic implications, either as direct targets or as vulnerabilities installed by genome

dynamic alteration. We believe that our findings can provide unique and novel avenues to refine PDAC treatment strategies, thus improving the outcome of PDAC patients.

SFB1565: Molecular mechanisms and interplay of gene expression processes

Humans consist of different cell types such as skin cells, liver cells, etc. Each of these cells has different functions even though they all have the same genetic code, DNA. This is only possible because the different cells activate or regulate different parts of their DNA, a process called gene expression. Traditionally, gene expression was seen as a linear sequence of steps. Today, we know that genome organization, transcription, RNA processing and modification, translation and quality control are closely linked processes. Regulation of these even take place between non-consecutive steps of gene expression and between processes in different cellular compartments, i.e. we are dealing with a highly dynamic network.

The mission of our CRC is to understand the processes involved in the regulation of gene expression. This process, which is fundamental to all life, is also relevant to many diseases, which is why it is so important to understand how our genome works. Therefore, various institutions from different disciplines such as biology, medicine, physics and chemistry have come together in this cooperation to jointly unravel the complex paths from gene to protein. New paths can only be explored through different perspectives, which is why we expressly support the equality and diversity of people and explicitly support WoCaNet.

CRC 1633: Pushing Electrons with Protons

The Collaborative Research Center CRC 1633 “Pushing Electrons with Protons” aims at facilitating new strategies for redox catalysis, as key enabling methodology for sustainable chemical synthesis and energy conversion based on renewable and chemically inert feedstock (CO₂, O₂, H₂O, N₂, biomass). For this purpose, the projects focus on a physicochemical phenomenon that controls the energetics and selectivity of redox transformations of these chemically diverse and unreactive substrates: The thermochemical and/or kinetic coupling of proton and electron transfer, proton-coupled electron transfer (PCET).

As the central paradigm of the CRC, advancing the fundamental understanding of PCET provides unifying strategies across the traditional branches of catalysis (homogeneous, enzymatic, heterogeneous) towards energy-efficient redox transformations.

The CRC is funded since 2024 by the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG*) and comprises an interdisciplinary consortium of chemistry,

physics, materials science and biology at various locations, with Göttingen as coordinating university.

SFB1528: Cognition of Interaction

The Collaborative Research Center 1528 investigates the cognitive foundations of social interaction – such as how we perceive, evaluate, and interact with others. We combine approaches from cognitive and systems neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral biology, supported by an interdisciplinary network that includes the University of Göttingen, the German Primate Center, and international partners.

To promote early-career female researchers in systems neuroscience, we have established a dedicated Early Career Research Group focused on the cortical basis of ecologically relevant decision-making. In addition, we place a strong emphasis on supporting various dimensions of diversity – in particular, neurodivergent early-career researchers and first-generation academics.

SFB1073: Atomic Scale Control of Energy Conversion

The overarching goal of the CRC 1073 is to understand and control the elementary steps of energy conversion in materials with tunable excitations and interactions. Our studies focus on new materials systems and conversion routes that are highly promising for future applications in energy conversion and storage but are at an early stage of scientific discovery. Thus, the CRC is a knowledge-driven research initiative in the area of the physical and chemical sciences that contributes to the microscopic understanding of excitations, thermalization and conversion steps down to the atomic scale.

RTG2824: Heart and brain diseases: integrative research across organs

The Research Training Group (RTG) 2824 “Heart and brain diseases: integrative research across organs” is based at the UMG and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) from April 2023 to March 2028.

The RTG 2824 aims to expand the cross-organ approach through high-end integrative research in the field of heart and brain diseases combined with top-notch training of medical doctorate and PhD students. Scientists from the cardiovascular and neuroscience sections of the UMG and the DPZ work in close collaboration and offer MD and PhD candidates the opportunity to perform interdisciplinary research on cardiomyocytes and neurons as well as the heart – brain axis while simultaneously receiving disciplinary and interdisciplinary training through the

qualification program. The projects are designed to increase basic knowledge and tackle clinically relevant questions.

After the start of the 1st PhD candidate cohort in 2023 with initially 10 projects, the 2nd PhD cohort started in April 2024 with 11 projects.

Multiscale Bioimaging: from Molecular Machines to Networks of Excitable Cells (MBExC)

Disorders of the heart and the brain are leading causes of disability and death. The electrically excitable cells of these widely distinct organs, cardiomyocytes and neurons, have surprisingly many physiological properties in common. They both rely on nanoscale functional units to produce their physiological outputs as part of electrically active networks. Importantly, many disease mechanisms that disrupt both cardiac and neural network function are rooted in such nanoscale functional units. Despite these similarities, research usually focuses on a single system, heart or brain, and on a single observation scale, such as molecules or cells or organs.

The goal of the cluster of excellence Multiscale Bioimaging: from Molecular Machines to Networks of Excitable Cells (MBExC) is to decipher disease-relevant nanoscale functional units in cardiac and neural excitable cells. Both in the heart and in the brain, this goal can only be attained by a multiscale approach that integrates research on nanoscale units with analyses of excitable cell networks. MBExC will provide insights that could not be achieved by studying each physiological system separately. Breakthroughs in optical nanoscopy, X-ray imaging, and electron tomography make it possible to close the gaps in our approach, e.g. between the molecular and cellular scales. In line with the role of the Göttingen Campus in pioneering such approaches, MBExC will develop and apply innovative technologies to study nanoscale functional units, and provide unique insights into both cardiac and neural networks.