

contents

Night of Science	1
Kairos Kita Selected recent publications	2
"The Self Explorer" IMPRS 6+ evaluation successful	3
Gifts for the FeM Mädchenhaus 2015 Upcoming Lectures	4

Night of Science

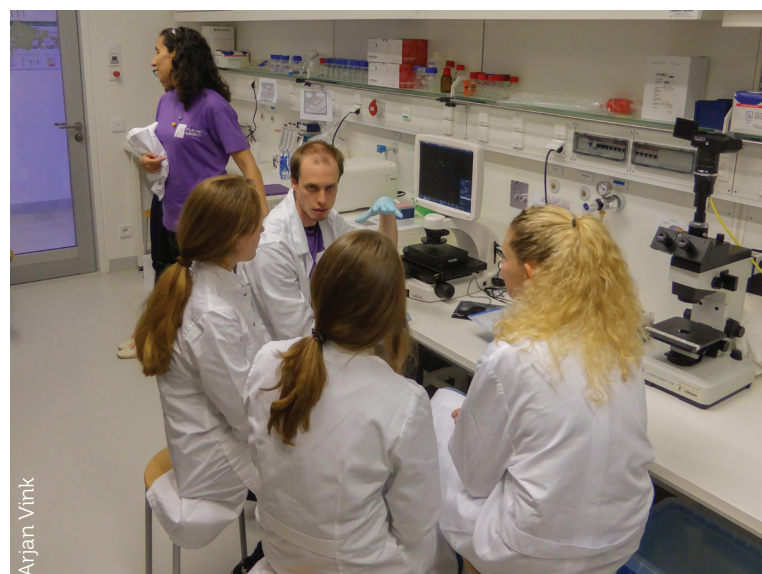
on June 19, around 10.000 people visited the Riedberg Science Campus for the tenth Night of Science. Both Max Planck Institutes (Brain Research and Biophysics) on-campus were approached by the organisation committee to participate. The Max Planck Institute for Brain Research offered lectures by Research Group Leaders **Johannes Letzkus** and **Tatjana Tchumatchenko** which were attended by many people. In addition, we offered students experiments in the Teaching Lab, including spike measurements in crickets, DNA isolation from fruits, gel electrophoreses and cell staining. The event was supported by the Friends of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research.

In addition to the other activities all over the campus, there were plenary talks and an open discussion about free will by **Wolf Singer** (Director Emeritus at our Institute) and **Boris Kotchoubey** from the Tübingen University.

We were overwhelmed and honoured by the strong interest in our Institute and will surely participate in these events for the years to come. We also thank all the volunteers from our Institute who spent a Friday evening supervising experiments and explaining visitors about our research and the Institute.

Website www.nightofscience.de

Max Heumüller explains the results of cell staining to the enthusiastic participants of the Teaching Lab



First children accepted in Kairos Kita

recently, the Max Planck Society opened the “Kairos Kita” for young children from three months to six years old. Its beautiful building is located on the Science Campus Riedberg and is about a five minutes’ walk from the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research.

The first kids were taken up for the familiarisation phase Mid of June and are in the good hands of a team of child carers from the “Gesellschaft zur Förderung betrieblicher und betriebsnaher Kindereinrichtungen e.V.”

There is room for up to 135 children in total from the Frankfurt-Riedberg residential area, Goethe University and the Max Planck Institutes for Brain Research and of Biophysics.



The Kairos Kita is located at Science Campus Riedberg (Max-von-Laue-Str. 20) Frankfurt am Main

Selected recent publications

Borst, A. and [Helmstaedter, M.](#) (2015) Common circuit design in fly and mammalian motion vision. *Nature Neuroscience* 18: 1067–1076

Friederici, A.D. and [Singer, W.](#) (2015) Grounding language processing on basic neurophysiological principles. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 19(6): 329-338

Gatys, L.A., Ecker, A.S., [Tchumatchenko, T.](#), and Bethge, M. (2015) Synaptic unreliability facilitates information transmission in balanced cortical populations *Phys. Rev. E* 91: 062707

Naumann, R.K., Ondracek, J.M., Reiter, S., Shein-Idelson, M., Tosches, M.A., Yamawaki, T.M., [Laurent, G.](#) (2015) The reptilian brain. *Current Biology* 25(8): R317–R321

You, X., Vlatkovic, I., Babic, A., Will, T.J., Epstein, I., Tushev, G., Akbalik, G., Wang, M., Glock, C., Quedenau, C., Wang, X., Hou, J., Liu, H., Sun, W., Sambandan, S., Chen, T., [Schuman, E.M.](#) and Chen, W. (2015) Neural circular RNAs are derived from synaptic genes and regulated by development and plasticity. *Nature Neuroscience* 18: 603-610

Friends of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research

New exhibition: "The Self Explorer"

on May 21, the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research opened an unique exhibition by the German artist **Harald Häuser**, called "The Self Explorer". In the public area of the Institute, several art works are presented, including a selection of ten illustrations exclusively made for the book "Gehirne" (1916) by **Gottfried Benn**.

The art works series are strongly inspired by brain research. While coincidentally listening to an HR info radio interview with our Managing Director **Erin Schuman** about the centennial existence made the artist realize that the major theme of his 40 years long artistic work more or less unconsciously always was the brain and what occurs inside of it. **Häuser**: "The fact that this process of exploration became so concrete in this new series of paintings is due – as is mentioned above – to a fortunate coincidence."

The exhibition can be visited during week days between 8.00-18.00 hours. Additional information is available at the Institute's reception.

Website www.brain.mpg.de/news-events/exhibition-the-self-explorer.html



Part of the exhibition are illustrations for the book "Gehirne" (1916) by the German author Gottfried Benn.



One of the works from "The Self Explorer" series by Harald Häuser

IMPRS 6+ evaluation successful

the International Max Planck Research School for Neural Circuits started in January 2011 and was recently evaluated by an external committee consisting of excellent scientists from all over the world. The committee praised the graduate program so that, after a successful application for extension, funding will be guaranteed for at least the next six years.

In addition, thirteen new-generation students will start in the Fall of this year.

Website www.imprs.brain.mpg.de

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Gifts for the FeM Mädchenhaus Frankfurt

in December 2014, members of the Institute once again sponsored a group of girls who participate in the FeM Mädchenhaus Frankfurt.

This time, we had received a wish-list from twenty girls. In addition, each of the girls had provided some information about herself on a "brain ornament" which was placed on the Institute's Christmas tree. Our staff members were engaged and signed up for the gifts. In the end we were able to present three gifts to each girl in stead of only one. The above image shows that the girls were over the moon!!!

We have also agreed with their tutors that they will visit the institute for a day in the Teaching Lab later this year.

2015 Upcoming Lectures

(all Lectures start at 11.00 hours at the Institute's Lecture Hall)

- 26.08 **Tiago Branco** (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK), *Title: "Synaptic integration in circuits controlling mouse defensive behaviours" Neuroscience Lecture*
- 16.09 **Thomas Mrsic-Flogel** (Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland) *Title: "Principles of local and long-range connectivity in visual cortex" Neuroscience Lecture*
- 05.10 **Robert H. Singer** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University New York, USA) *Special Lecture, starts at 17.00 hours*
- 28.10 **Michael Long** (New York University Medical Center, USA) *Neuroscience Lecture*
- 04.11 **Sonja Hofer** (Biozentrum University of Basel, Switzerland) *Neuroscience Lecture*
- 11.11 **Andreas Schäfer** (University College London, Neuroscience and National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK) *Neuroscience Lecture*
- 18.11 **Botond Roska** (Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Switzerland) *Neuroscience Lecture*
- 09.12 **Claire Wyart** (Institut du Cerveau et de la moelle épinière, CRICM, Paris, France) *Neuroscience Lecture*
- 10.12 **Gerry Rubin** (Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Janelia Research Campus, Ashburn, USA) *Special Lecture*

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