

Winter wonder land in Grainau near Garmisch

Exciting lectures, a great number of posters and some memorable social activities in the 7th German Israeli Cancer Research School (February 8-12, 2015)

Fourteen speakers (from Israel and Germany) addressed the school, which was attended by 27 PhD students and Postdocs (13 participants from Israel and 14 from Germany).

Profs. Eithan Galun (Israel), Roland Eils and Thomas Höfer (DKFZ) were in charge of the Scientific Program of this School, which was organized by Prof. Peter Angel, assisted by Elfriede Mang and Corinna Sprengart on the German side and Dr. Hagit Schwimmer and Prof. Varda Rotter in Israel.

The topic of the school was “**Systems Medicine**”. The lectures were dedicated to systems medicine approaches, where different levels of regulation in the human body from a mechanistic perspective were discussed. Further, how these mechanisms affect people’s health was reconsidered. A key issue was the role of epigenetic and transcriptional mechanisms for the development and progression of cancer and other diseases, also taking into account the impact of the environment and its effects on the predisposition for various diseases. Another focus addressed the questions how aberrations in cellular decision making can lead to cancer and which roles the interaction between the tumor microenvironment and the immune system play during onset and progression of the disease.

The scientific presentations were followed by lively discussions with many questions from the attending students and Post-Docs. Despite the diverse scientific background of the audience, everybody gained many new insights and extended her/his horizon. During the poster session, three female, Dr. Erika Kuchen, Michal Mark and Alina Simerzin were awarded with 300 Euro each for their excellent posters.

From the participants’ feedback it was clear that the expectations of the school were fully realised. The Social activities, such as Horse Sledging and a Dinner in a Mountain Lodge with original Music and dishes were very well received by the attendees.

Some remarks from participants (anonymous):

“The first day was a bit intensive, next time maybe an earlier flight should be ordered for the guys coming from abroad. Other than that everything was excellent – very high scientific level and great brain storming with the other members. Thank you!

“I would like to use the opportunity to thank for the excellent organisation and coordination of the school, I found it all very productive and amusing. Super interaction between participation and speakers.....”

“It was great. Thank you very much for everything.”

".. You managed to naturally connect between all these different disciplines and scientific backgrounds, in a supportive and comfortable environment. Additionally, I really appreciate the opportunities you have provided for me to present my research and discuss it with the leading scientists in the field- I learned A LOT!

" his was an outstanding opportunity and experience I had learned much and in particular enjoyed the scientific and educational environment we had