

Countdown for Future Cancer Researchers

Deadline for applications to the Helmholtz International Graduate School for Cancer Research is May 1, 2008

To make the training of PhD students at the DKFZ even more attractive internationally, the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ) has established the Helmholtz International Graduate School for Cancer Research. It allows doctoral students to contribute to excellent projects in cancer research at an early stage in their career and, in addition, provides comprehensive training covering the various disciplines of cancer research. Many elements of the existing International PhD Program of the DKFZ have been taken over into the program of the Graduate School, which will be attended by all PhD students at the DKFZ in the future. Furthermore, the Graduate School offers more international networking with cancer research institutes such as the U.S. Anderson Cancer Center, collaborations with other Helmholtz Centers such as the Max Delbrück Center in Berlin and an even more extensive range of accompanying courses. Applicants for one of the training positions must have graduated in natural sciences with a degree that is comparable to the German 'Diplom' or in medicine. Applicants should not be older than thirty years of age and have a good knowledge of English. Application deadline is on May 1, 2008. The program will start in early October at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg.

PhD students at the DKFZ are excellently supervised by their PhD advisor and supported by two additional mentors. Another group leader from the DKFZ and an external scientist advise the young researchers at regular intervals on the progress of their work. In addition, the DKFZ provides the coming generation of scientists with an extensive further education program ranging from presentation skills over project management through to new laboratory working methods. Attendance at the lecture series 'Progress in Cancer Research', in which divisional heads and group leaders of the DKFZ lecture on their respective research fields, is compulsory. Furthermore, presentations of scientific results at conferences or seminars as well as participation in various social activities are encouraged.

"The competition for the world's best brains starts already with young researchers," says Professor Thomas Efferth, who coordinates the PhD Program at the Center. The Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers, of which the German Cancer Research Center is a member, founded three graduate schools last year. The Association will provide each school with annual funds of 600,000 euros for the next six years.

Further information about the Helmholtz Graduate Program is available on the DKFZ website at <http://www.dkfz.de/en/phd-program/index.html>.

The task of the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum in Heidelberg (German Cancer Research Center, DKFZ) is to systematically investigate the mechanisms of cancer development and to identify cancer risk factors. The results of this basic research are expected to lead to new approaches in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The Center is financed to 90 percent by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and to 10 percent by the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. It is a member of the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers (Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V.).