



Impressions of the GSCN 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Heidelberg

**Dear GSCN members, friends and colleagues,**

**our Annual Conference was a real highlight, we just published a White Paper on Translation and are planning the coming annual magazines and ask you for beautiful pictures - please find more information in our newsletter November 2018.**

- 1) GSCN Conference 2018 in Heidelberg
- 2) GSCN White Paper on Translation published
- 3) GSCN Members wanted!
- 4) New movies about stem cell researchers in German and English
- 5) Wanted: Fascinating Stem Cell Pictures
- 6) Travel Awards reminder
- 7) News from the field August till October 2018

### **1) Great GSCN Conference in Heidelberg**

The Annual GSCN Conference 2018 welcomed more than 400 participants, offered three joining symposia and attracted 28 companies to the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg from 19 - 21 September 2018

The online follow-up survey gave a very positive feedback, best summarized in the following anonymous quotes: "Networking is great and clearly in the heart of the conference. Close proximity to leaders in the field. Relevance of presented topics. / Great presentations, very good keynotes, good opportunities for networking." The conference pictures will be online [here](#).

**The 7<sup>th</sup> GSCN Conference will be in Berlin on 23 till 25 Sept. 2019 – please save the date!**

### **2) GSCN White Paper on Translation published**

A GSCN working group has written a White Paper "Translation – von der Stammzelle zur innovativen Therapie. Analyse und Empfehlungen zur klinischen Translation von Stammzellforschung in Deutschland". Interviews with national and international stem cell researchers about translational gaps and hurdles were made and analyzed and resulting recommendations extracted. The recommendations were presented and discussed with parliamentarians and other stakeholders in Berlin on 20 November. Please find the White Paper (in German) [here](#)!

### **3) GSCN Members wanted!**

The GSCN has crossed the number of 400 members and is happy about the constant increase in numbers. *But the network needs more members for a better representation of the community, a stronger backbone in the community and a more powerful outreach out of the community.* Here is a very simple and good reason to become a member of the GSCN, taken from the online conference survey – if you need a reason:

"Membership fee and conference fee for GSCN members together are cheaper than going as non-member..."

Please consider the option of GSCN membership

- Full member                    120 €
- Junior member                40 € (up to 4 years)
- Research institute           900 €
- Companies with up to 20 fulltime employees    900 €

and apply for it [here!](#)

#### 4) New movies about stem cell researchers in German and English

The [media center](#) of the GSCN is growing each year: Stefanie Mahler has produced new films about the research topics of **Ana Martin-Villalba** (Neurological stem cell research, DKFZ, Heidelberg) and **Jan Lohmann** (Plant stem cells, COS, University of Heidelberg). They are in German and English and are very suitable to be shown from the class room to a public event.

#### 5) Fascinating Stem Cell Pictures?!

Who has got fascinating and most beautiful stem cell pictures and would like to see them printed in the GSCN Annual Magazine 2018/2019 in its printed and online version? Please send them in high resolution with a short description and a copyright information about the photographer to Stefanie Mahler ([Stefanie.Mahler@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:Stefanie.Mahler@mdc-berlin.de)). We would be very proud and grateful to show your pictures and please spread the word.

#### 6) Travel awards reminder

GSCN members and scientists in Germany can apply for GSCN travel awards to international stem cell conferences, workshops and events. To apply please send the submitted abstract to the event and a short letter of motivation (max. 1 page) to the GSCN Office ([gscn.office@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:gscn.office@mdc-berlin.de)). The letter should contain 1) the importance of the event for the applicant, 2) how the applicant profits from the event and 3) why financial support is important.

Applications will be considered with this deadline:

- 30 November for events from 1 Januar to 31 March of the following year!

#### 7) News from the field August till October 2018

##### Looking for the perfect blood (DE) (GSCN)

20.08.2018

The demand for blood reserves is constantly growing, and the supply is shrinking at the same time. Experts warn of bottlenecks in medical care. Researchers are also working on artificial blood that is to be produced entirely in the laboratory. This could be achieved with the help of stem cells.

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##### Myocardial infarction: First beating heart muscle cells produced from stem cells (DE) (GSCN)

05.09.2018

In a heart attack, part of the heart muscle tissue dies irreversibly - the heart remains damaged, even if the heart attack is survived. Current biomedical research focuses on the therapeutic replacement of these dead heart muscle cells. Now, for the first time, Würzburg researchers have succeeded in producing beating heart muscle cells from special stem cells.

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##### Milestone for the stem cell network in NRW: Ministry of Science holds out the prospect of long-term funding (DE) (GSCN)

05.09.2018

The established Competence Network Stem Cell Research NRW is to be permanently funded by the state starting in 2019. To this end, 19 universities, university clinics and non-university research institutions located in NRW have today jointly founded the association "Stammzellnetzwerk.NRW".

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**Axolotl: Researchers decipher secret of the "Wunderlurchs" (DE) (GSCN)**

28.09.2018

Legs, parts of the heart, brain and spinal column - in axolotl everything grows back. Now researchers are certain: cells that also occur in humans are responsible for this.

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