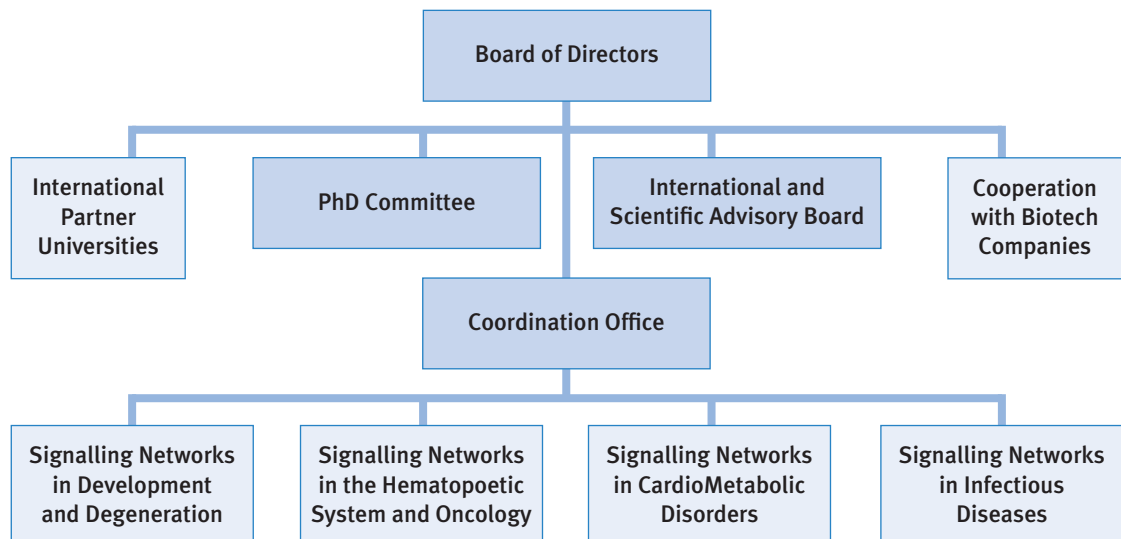




Who we are - Organization of the Graduate School

The International Graduate School in Molecular Medicine Ulm is an interdisciplinary central institution of Ulm University headed by a **Board of Directors** consisting of a chairman, a vice chairman, a representative of the presidency of Ulm University and a managing director. The Board of Directors is responsible for the scientific profile of the Graduate School, the interdisciplinary training, the regulation of programmes, the performance-based allocation of resources and public relations. While the chairman acts as the representative of the Graduate School towards the outside world, the managing director is responsible for the school's administrative management. Both are official representatives of the Graduate School in financial affairs. The board decides on all financial issues concerning the Graduate School, such as work contracts, student scholarships and applications for the various social programmes on offer etc.



The Board of Directors is supported by an **International and Scientific Advisory Board** which offers suggestions for the general development of the Graduate School and its PhD programme. The Advisory Board includes scientists from Ulm University's various faculties in addition to those from other international research institutes as well as representatives from pharmaceutical companies. While the scientific members ensure the international compatibility of the PhD programme and its compliance with international standards, the representatives from industry offer advice that is particularly relevant to the employability of our PhD graduates. The members of the faculties of Ulm University assist in identifying those interdisciplinary subjects that can improve the training of doctoral students

External Members of the International and Scientific Advisory Board (September 2009):

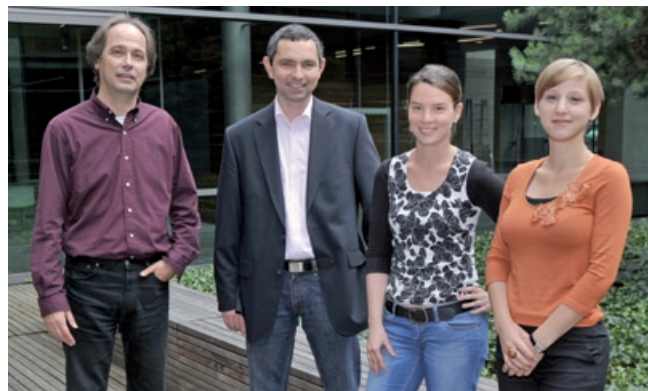
Academic Representatives	Industrial Representatives
Y. Kloog, Tel Aviv	H. Allgaier, Merckle Biotec
M. J. Lohse, Würzburg	U. Bücheler, Boehringer Ingelheim
P. Pozzilli, Rome	N. Rentschler, BioRegionUlm
S. Rich, Wake Forest	H. Wendt, Bayer

The **PhD Committee** is in charge of the scientific monitoring and development of the International PhD Programme in Molecular Medicine right from the start of the application procedure through to the thesis defence. It is responsible for the assessment of applications in order to maintain the high standards of research required by the programme. Furthermore, the PhD Committee supervises the school's compliance with the regulations of the programme and constantly improves them. It also conducts the intermediate as well as the final evaluation of students. The PhD Committee consists of 8 scientists from Ulm University and one student representative.

The **Principal Investigators (PIs)** are a group of 25 scientists from Ulm University responsible for the scientific profile and organization of the Graduate School as well as for the training of our PhD students. For instance, the PIs organize the four different Research Training Groups of the Graduate School. In addition to this, each Thesis Advisory Committee includes at least one PI to ensure equal and excellent standards of research training for all PhD students.

As mentioned previously, doctoral students are organized and trained in smaller **Research Training Groups** from the beginning of their PhD studies. The groups concentrate on different fields of Molecular Medicine and each group includes a number of Principal Investigators responsible for its coordination. Moreover, highly proficient medical students are trained in clinical research by participating in the programme of **Experimental Medicine**.

Advice and support for applicants and PhD students are provided by the **Coordination Office** of the Graduate School. The office preselects applications and coordinates the selection procedure. It organizes curricular and extracurricular activities as well as meetings and examinations, and is responsible for the Graduate School's public relations. It also coordinates the smooth interaction and cooperation between the large number of people and institutions involved in the Graduate School.





How to study the International PhD Programme

During the three year period of PhD studies, students must take part in a number of compulsory activities amounting to 20 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). Central teaching activities include the lecture *Improve your Textbook Knowledge* for our first-year PhD students as well as a *Journal Club* and the biweekly seminar *Progress Report* which are compulsory for all PhD students. The lecture *Improve your Textbook Knowledge* allows graduates from different disciplines to refresh the basic knowledge needed to perform research in Molecular Medicine independently of their scientific background. In the seminar *Progress Report*, students are trained to communicate and present their own research data to their fellow students and to place it in a broader international context. Furthermore, graduates must attend a series of 30 lectures a year presented by external speakers. Another important compulsory course is the seminar *Good Scientific Practice* which takes place before the start of any practical work







In addition to curricular seminars and lectures, we offer our PhD students a large variety of optional activities. As one of our aims is to give students an insight into the work of industrial employers, we organize excursions to pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Summer schools and other scientific events in cooperation with partners from industry help to motivate students to deepen their knowledge of basic science and other practical applications. We also organize annual scientific retreats focusing on particular topics. In addition, there is a wide range of key competence seminars organized in order to improve the employability of our graduates. For instance, we offer courses in biosafety, bioethics, project management, patent rights, scientific writing and career workshops. From this variety of optional activities students must choose a minimum of two courses per year.

Within the first two years of doctoral training, students are expected to attend three practical courses in different laboratories over a period of two weeks. This practical training allows graduates to learn new and innovative techniques in Molecular Medicine.

A particular element of our study concept is the two intermediate examinations that our students must pass at the completion of their first and second years of study to ensure proper progress in their chosen scientific project. Both examinations take place within a public forum at our international meetings held in April and October of each year. While the first intermediate examination consists of a poster presentation before the Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC), the second intermediate examination also includes a scientific talk in addition to this. Only those students who successfully pass their intermediate examinations may proceed to their respective second or third year of study.

Study Plan International PhD Programme in Molecular Medicine Ulm							
Course	1 st Year		2 nd Year		3 rd Year		CP
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 1	Term 2	Term 1	Term 2	
Lecture Series							3
Improve your textbook knowledge							2
Journal Club							6
Progress Report							3
2 Optional Courses (workshops, excursions, etc)							3
3 Practical courses							3
Doctoral thesis							
Disputation							
Sum Credit Points =							20

Explanation

-  Lecture
-  Year round
-  Optional courses
-  Practical courses
-  Thesis
-  Examination

