

Friday, March, 27<sup>th</sup>
**Session 4: Virology, Toxicology and Biotechnology**

Chair: Christoph Schmidt

- 09:00-09:40 **Gregers Rom Andersen, Aarhus, Denmark**  
 Cryo-EM analysis reveal a dynamic mechanism for convertase activation of complement C5
- 09:40-10:00 **Marie Jachmann, IGradU, Ulm**  
 Opsonophagocytosis by monocyte-derived macrophages of C3b- and iC3b-coated beads
- 10:00-10:20 **Sophia Kistermann, IGradU, Ulm**  
 Identification of endogenous toxin-inhibiting compounds in human blood
- 10:20-10:40 **Coffee break and poster session**


**Session 5: Aging & Degeneration**

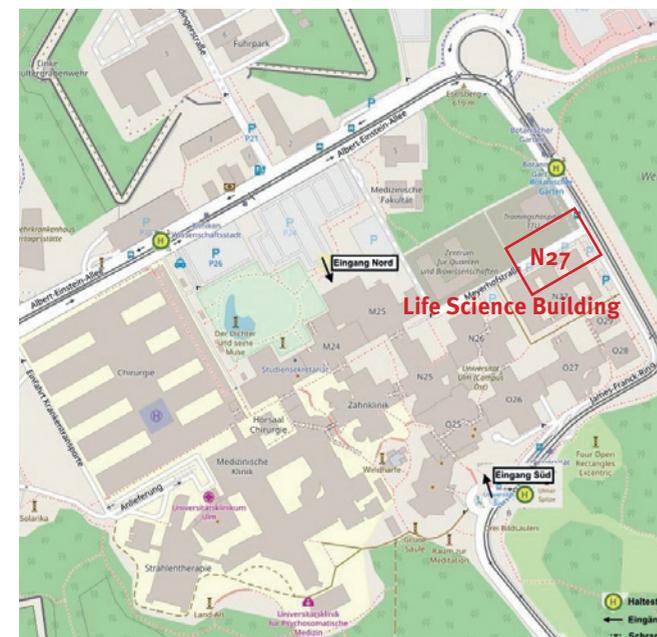
Chair: Hartmut Geiger

- 10:40-11:20 **Sandra Scharaw, Dresden**  
 Organelle organisation in tissue renewal and the changes with age
- 11:20-11:40 **Annlin Jacob, IGradU, Ulm**  
 Modelling colorectal carcinogenesis in human colon organoids from donors of different ages
- 11:40-12:00 **Pranav Nanda Kumar, IGradU, Ulm**  
 The role and regulation of SOX10 in Schwann cells after peripheral nerve injury
- 12:00-13:00 **Lunch break**

**Session 6: Endocrinology and Oncology**

Chair: Reiner Siebert

- 13:00-13:40 **Tobias Reiff, Düsseldorf**  
 Personalized fly avatars for the investigation of endocrine control of intestinal physiology and GI-tumours
- 13:40-14:00 **Matej Boros, IGradU, Ulm**  
 Molecular Characterization of Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (RTPS)
- 14:00-14:20 **Nadine Matscheko, IGradU, Ulm**  
 DNA methylation in classic Hodgkin lymphoma
- 14:20-14:40 **Almila Izbirak, IGradU, Ulm**  
 Regulation of T-cell Function through changes in Local Membrane Architecture
- 14:40-15:00 **Veronika Stiegler, IGradU, Ulm**  
 From Data Integration to Therapy Prediction: A Mixture-of-Experts Framework Towards an Oncology Digital Twin

 15:00 **Closing remarks**


Contact

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# Spring Meeting 2026

March 25-27, 2026  
 Life Science Building  
 Multimediaraum

Meyerhofstraße | N27  
 D-89081 Ulm



International Graduate School  
 in Molecular Medicine Ulm



# Spring Meeting 2026

Wednesday, March, 25<sup>th</sup>

Multimedia Room, Life Science Building

**17:00**      **Opening Remarks**  
Bernd Knöll Chairman International Graduate School in Molecular Medicine Ulm (IGradU, Ulm)

### Key Note Lecture

Chair: **Timo Ropinski**

**Bernhard Kainz, Erlangen**

Beyond Supervised Learning: From Normative Representation Learning to Agentic AI for Robust Medical Image Analysis

**18:00**      - **Inaugural Ceremony for the First-Year PhD-Students**  
- **Graduation Ceremony**  
- **Jutta & Wilfried Trumpp Award Ceremony**  
(for the participants of the programme “experimental medicine”)

**19:00**      **Come-Together-Party**



Thursday, March, 26<sup>th</sup>

## Session 1: Neurobiology

Chair: Chair David Brenner

**09:00-09:40**    **Patrick Ejlerskov, Copenhagen, Denmark**  
Viral infections, Autophagy and Neurodegenerative Disease

**09:40-10:00**    **Esra Tunaboynu, IGradU, Ulm**  
Type I interferon signaling in motor neurons in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: first friend and later foe?

**10:00-10:20**    **Zoi Balla, IGradU, Ulm**  
Chronic chemogenetic ventral Hippocampus modulation: Neurochemical and behavioral insights into schizophrenia-related symptoms

**10:20-10:40**    **Christina Steffke, IGradU, Ulm**  
Elucidating the pathological interplay between cytoskeletal alterations and RNA metabolism in Profilin1-mutant human motor neurons

**10:40-11:00**    **Coffee break and poster session**

**11:00-11:20**    **Burak Özkan, IGradU, Ulm**  
Endogenous retrovirus activation modulates contralateral brain response influencing antigen-processing programs after intracranial bleeding

**11:20-12:00**    **Christian Simon, Leipzig**  
Decoding Mechanisms of Neuronal Death and Dysfunction in Sensory-Motor Circuits in Spinal Muscular Atrophy

**12:00-13:00**    **Lunch break**

Thursday, March, 26<sup>th</sup>

## Session 2: Trauma, Regeneration and Immune Modulation

Chair: Stefan Reber

**13:00-13:40**    **Iliia Karatsoreos, Amherst, USA**  
Temporal Gating of Immune Function: Circadian-Stress Interactions in Health and Vulnerability

**13:40-14:00**    **Tamara Schimmele, IGradU, Ulm**  
Effects of early life adversity on bone metabolism and fracture healing

**14:00-14:20**    **Karthik Baskar, IGradU, Ulm**  
Impact of repetitive trauma on asymptomatic C9orf72 carriers & ALS patients using hiPSC-derived organoids

**14:20-14:40**    **Coffee break and poster session**



Thursday, March, 26<sup>th</sup>

## Session 3: Oncology

Chair: Alexander Kleger

**14:40-15:20**    **Marina Pasca di Magliano, Michigan, USA**  
Evolution of the Pancreatic Cancer Microenvironment

**15:20-15:40**    **Menar Ekizce, IGradU, Ulm**  
Deciphering Chemoresistance in Pancreatic Cancer: Patient-Derived Organoids for Precision Oncology

**15:40-16:00**    **Sandra Heller, medical scientist, Ulm**  
Diabetes-associated regulatory sequences reveal novel pathways in pancreatic development and disease

**16:00-16:20**    **Eleni Zimmer, IGradU, Ulm**  
ATM deficiency orchestrates an SPP1+ tumor-associated macrophage program to establish a tumor-supportive pancreatic niche

**16:20-16:40**    **Clara Morgenstern, IGradU, Ulm**  
Establishment of a human stem cell-based culture model to investigate molecular carcinogenesis of urothelial carcinoma

**End of the day II**

