

News from the GGNB

No. 1, June 2022

Dear GGNB members,

To keep all faculty members and doctoral students informed about recent developments and upcoming events, the GGNB Board has decided to prepare regular e-mails. These will be sent after the GGNB Board meetings, i.e. usually 3-4 times per year, and will contain information from the GGNB Board, the GGNB Office, and the student representatives. If you have any suggestions or comments, we would like to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Markus Bohnsack and the GGNB Team

News from the GGNB Board (meeting on 11 May 2022)

- New deputy GGNB spokesperson
 - The GGNB Board elected Henning Urlaub as the new deputy GGNB spokesperson. We congratulate Henning and cordially thank Patrick Cramer, who previously held this office.
- GAUSS PhD students funding survey
 - The first survey on the funding situation of PhD students in GAUSS was completed in February. For GAUSS in general and GGNB, the results are as follows:
 - Overall in GAUSS, 81.9% of all doctoral students have employment contracts, predominantly 60-70% contracts (59.1%), while 20% are higher and another 20% are lower paid, mainly from third-party funding (63.1%) or institutional/budget grants (27.9%). Overall, the percentage of employment contracts is slightly lower among female students (80.0%) than among male students (83.3%), whereas the percentage of scholarships is higher among female students (12.6%) than among male students (8.8%). In GAUSS, 10.4% of the PhD students have scholarships, predominantly in the 1,200-1,500€ range (60%) or higher (23%), mainly by German scholarship providers (67%, incl. DAAD). Hiwi jobs (0.7%) and mini jobs (0.1%) are rare. Mixed funding (1.7%) mostly serves to supplement scholarships with additional employment contracts. The data show that the number of employment contracts decreases in the fourth year of a PhD, and even further beyond the fourth year.
 - In GGNB, 91% of all doctoral students have employment contracts, predominantly 60-70% contracts (80%). 7% of the GGNB students have scholarships. Only a single PhD student in GGNB is currently funded by a Hiwi-contract. No other precarious cases were reported in GGNB.
 - The funding gap between doctoral students who hold a contract and those who receive a scholarship from external sources (esp. scholarships which pays less than 1,200 EUR) can be decreased by a Hiwi contract from the department, if possible.
 - The other graduate schools will do the survey as well, and the survey will be repeated annually. This will enable GAUSS and GGNB to spot problems in funding early on.

- The results of the annual survey will be reported to the presidential board of the university, the faculties and participating research institutions.
- Newly admitted faculty members:
 - Molecular Biology: Michael Heide (DPZ)

News from the GGNB Office

- Save the date: GGNB Science Day, Tuesday 18 October
 - Due to the pandemic, the GGNB Science Day originally planned for December 2021 had to be postponed. We now plan to hold it on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at the MPI-NAT. Again, we plan to hold a Science Slam and a poster session. Further information will follow in due course – for now, please *save the date!*
- Introductory Workshop for new doctoral students, Wednesday 17 August
 - Antje (PBCS Office) and Kirsten (GGNB Office) will give their introductory workshop on Wednesday, 17 August, 14:00-17:00h (in presence, location *tba*). All recently (since February) admitted doctoral students will be invited by e-mail in late July. In case you joined GGNB before that but would still like to take part, send a brief e-mail to ggnb@gwdg.de by 10 August.
- Mandatory *Good Scientific Practice* courses
 - All doctoral students have to take part in a seminar on Good Scientific Practice, usually during the first year. Each semester, GGNB and GAUSS offer several courses on this topic– check out the course announcements in the GAUSS newsletter or on the GAUSS webpage!

News from the doctoral student representatives

- Doctoral student representatives elections: the following programs have elected new representatives:
 - Biomolecules: Nicola Freyer and Arun Sathyan
 - Molecular Medicine: Jennifer Jansen and Federico Bleckwedel
- Retreats
 - Systems Neuroscience: a retreat is planned for September/October, possibly in Delft/Netherlands. If you would like to suggest potential speakers/topics, please contact Marysol or Stella.
 - Neurosciences: the retreat will take place on 5-7 July in Durbach. The election of new doctoral student representatives will take place there – if you would like to stand for election please contact Jonas.
 - Several other programs are also planning retreats for summer/fall – if you would like to get involved in the organization, contact your doctoral student representatives!
- Social activities
 - The *Systems Neurosciences* and *Sensory and Motor Neuroscience* programs hold joint get-togethers every 1st of the month. For more information, contact Marysol or Stella resp. Lakshay or Felix.