

Heidelberg - international city of science

The accumulated expertise of the city, University and research institutes

Heidelberg, February 18, 2016 - Life Sciences, Environmental Management and Information Technology are the core fields of expertise of the international city of science of Heidelberg.

Heidelberg is a stronghold of the Life Sciences - the University, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, the German Cancer Research Center and the Heidelberg Max Planck Institutes are numbered amongst the best in the world in terms of basic research.

The city and the sciences are closely connected with each other in Heidelberg. The symbiosis began about 200 years after the founding of the city - when Germany's oldest **University "Ruperto Carola"** was founded in the year 1386. Today the University is one of the eleven Universities of Excellence in Germany, and is also a leader of worldwide ranking. More than 30,000 students are registered at the Ruperto Carola, in 12 faculties offering over 170 different courses. Over 5,000 scientists are engaged here in teaching and research - including around 450 professors. 10 Nobel Prize winners have conducted research at the University of Heidelberg as professors, or still work here today, such as Prof. Dr. Harald zur Hausen, who won the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine. The University considers itself a research university with an international reputation. In addition to the expansion of its disciplinary strengths, it promotes dialogue above and beyond traditional subjects - including in the humanities, economic and social sciences. It forms the central point of a research network, and is associated with numerous non-university research institutions and companies at the science location of Heidelberg - above all in the area of Life Sciences. The central scientific institutions of the Ruperto Carola in this area include the Biochemistry Center, the Interdisciplinary Center for Neurosciences, the Center for Quantitative

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Analysis of Molecular and Cellular Bio-systems (BioQuant), the Center for Astronomy and the Center for Molecular Biology of the University of Heidelberg (ZMBH).

The **Heidelberg University Clinic** stands for innovative cutting-edge medicine at an international level, and is one of the leading medical centers in Europe - in health care, research and teaching. The Medical Faculty has been in existence since 1386, and is therefore the oldest in Germany. Every year, the over 40 clinics and specialist departments are sought out by around 800,000 patients from all over Germany and abroad.

The **German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)** works in close harmony with the University. The DKFZ as the largest biomedical research institution in Germany devotes itself to the task of conducting cancer research. A unique project nationwide is the community project **National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT)** Heidelberg - a joint facility of the Heidelberg University Clinic together with the German Cancer Research Center, the Heidelberg Thoracic Clinic and the "Deutsche Krebshilfe" ("German Cancer Aid"). Directly next to the new construction of the NCT stands the **Heidelberg Ion Beam Therapy Center (HIT)**, which was completed in 2009. The HIT is currently the only therapy facility in Europe which (also) works with heavy ions, and the only one in the world to have a "gantry" - a mobile beam guidance system in which the beam emission can be rotated 360° around the patient.

Another institution to commit itself to basic biological research is the **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)**, which is operated by a total of 18 European countries and has its headquarters in Heidelberg. The **Max Planck Society** is represented in Heidelberg by four institutions - the Institutes for **Medical Research, Astronomy, Nuclear Physics** and **Foreign Public and International Law**.

Research institutions such as the **Heidelberg Academy of Sciences**, the **State Observatory** and the private **Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS)**, whose research focuses on the development of new

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theoretical approaches to the interpretation of experimental data, are further shining lights in the Heidelberg research landscape.

With the **Technology Park** for young and growing Life Science companies and the Heidelberg Economic Promotion Service as the central point of contact, the city of Heidelberg has created two successful interfaces for the networking of science and the economy. The Heidelberg Technology Park works closely with the BioRN Network e.V., which is also based in Heidelberg. Together they support the networking and the knowledge transfer from basic research to start-up companies, established biotechnology companies and multinational firms such as Roche in Mannheim, Abbott in Ludwigshafen and Merck in Darmstadt. The **peak cluster BioRN Cell-based & Molecular Medicine** concentrates with its projects on issues such as personalized medicine and cancer. The Biotechnology Cluster in the Heidelberg area brings together around 100 partners from the economy, science and politics. The **peak cluster Forum Organic Electronics** focuses on novel applications and products made of conductive and semi-conductive plastics. A particular field of expertise of the cluster is the use of printing technology as a cost-effective method for the production of organic electronic components. The central research platform is the **InnovationLab GmbH (iL)** based in the Heidelberg railway town.

The **Klaus Tschira Stiftung gGmbH (KTS)** is committed to the promotion of young people - it aims to support kindergartens, schools, universities and research institutions in the development and understandable presentation of research results. In the year 2013, the Klaus Tschira Stiftung also established the foundation **Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation (HLFF)**. The HLFF organizes the annual Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF), at which selected young scientists in mathematics and information technology in Heidelberg meet with the most outstanding scientists of their specialization.

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