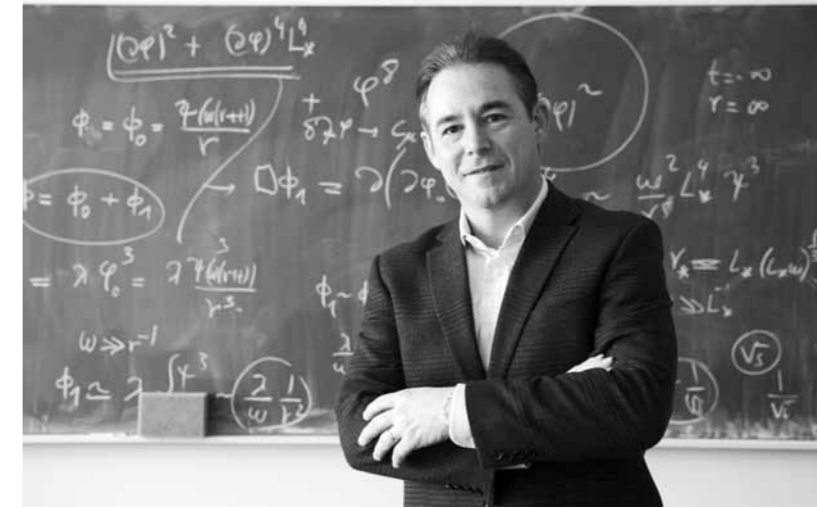




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NEWS FROM THE GUTENBERG RESEARCH COLLEGE



Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

We are happy to present to you the second edition of the Gutenberg Research College's newsletter, in which we inform you about our latest activities. Last year, the GRC expanded further – a total of 17 fellows are now working together with the members of the Executive Committee and the members of the Gutenberg Academy in an interdisciplinary network. In 2011/12, the network continues various activities to advance academic exchange at JGU and beyond.

In addition to the promotion of individual academic excellence by awarding fellowships, the GRC advises the university leadership on strategic matters related to research. In this regard, the Executive Com-

mittee was involved in JGU's application within the second phase of the Excellence Initiative. As one of JGU's main institutions, the GRC plays a key role in the institutional strategy. It has also supported the proposals for three Clusters of Excellence and the Graduate School of Excellence throughout the entire process, from the preparation of complete applications to their final review.

Please allow me to make a personal remark at this point. As coordinator for the Cluster of Excellence PRISMA (with my colleague Prof. Hartmut Wittig), I learned first-hand how difficult it is to motivate a team of more than 25 scientists over the two-year application process and to coordinate the enormous

workload such an application entails. Not only the scientists involved in the project but also their families have been greatly affected. The teams of scientists involved in the applications for the three Clusters of Excellence ERA, MCNE and PRISMA, the Graduate School MAINZ, the central coordination team and the university management board all deserve our heartfelt thanks in recognition of their remarkable accomplishment. We now eagerly await the funding decisions, which will be announced in June.

I invite you to read more about this on the following pages. If you have any questions, for example about our funding instruments, please feel free to contact me and my colleagues on the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

Matthias Neubert



Dr. Sven Horke

Faculty 04 – Department of Pharmacology



Prof. Dr. Claudia Felser

Faculty 09 – Institute of Inorganic Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry



Prof. Dr. Dr. Detlef Schuppan

Faculty 04 – 1st Department of Medicine



Prof. Dr. Angelika Kühnle

Faculty 09 – Institute of Physical Chemistry



Prof. Dr. Damaris Nübling

Faculty 05 – Department of German

Staff

Dr. Martin Weigel, former member of the GRC Executive Committee, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Sciences at Coventry University (Great Britain). Dr. Sven Horke, leader of the research group “Cell and Redox Signaling” at the Department of Pharmacology at the University Medical Center, has succeeded him as member of the Executive Committee.

Prof. Claudia Felser, member of the GRC Executive Committee, has become new director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids in Dresden. As adjunct professor, Prof. Felser will continue her work in research and teaching at JGU.

ERC Advanced Grants

GRC fellow Prof. Detlef Schuppan and the members of GRC’s Executive Committee Prof. Claudia Felser and Prof. Matthias Neubert have each received an ERC Advanced Grant. ERC Advanced Grants are awarded to outstanding scientists to conduct highly ambitious projects, which have the potential to break new ground in their respective research fields. Only researchers who have already made significant breakthroughs and have been successfully working for at least ten years at the cutting-edge of international research are eligible for these grants.

The European Research Council (ERC) has earmarked €2.5 million to fund the research being conducted by gastroenterologist and biochemist Detlef Schuppan at JGU’s University Medical Center. His research aims at the development of therapeutic strategies that will slow down or even reverse the pathological development of fibrotic connective tissue in body organs.

Chemist Claudia Felser will receive €2.4 million to advance her research on new materials based on Heusler compounds. Matthias Neubert will receive €2.1 million enabling him to initiate a new project in the field of theoretical high-energy physics.

Cooperation between Prof. Angelika Kühnle of JGU and André Gourdon of CEMES-CNRS

Since January 2012, Prof. Angelika Kühnle, member of GRC’s Executive Committee, and André Gourdon, Director of the Materials Science Institute CEMES-CNRS in Toulouse, have been jointly studying the synthesis of organic molecules on non-conducting surfaces. These two leading scientists had submitted a successful application for funding offered by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and its French counterpart, ANR. Over the next three years, the funding of €500,000 will help the scientists in Mainz and Toulouse to develop molecular wires that can be used in electronic circuits.

First digital dictionary of German surnames planned

Prof. Damaris Nübling, member of GRC’s Executive Committee, heads a new long-term project at JGU and TU Darmstadt, scheduled for 24 years. Under the umbrella of the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature, a comprehensive digital dictionary of family names in Germany will be developed. This project is unique worldwide in that, for the first time, the full range of surnames within a particular country will be collated and made accessible to all users in digital format.



Prof. Dr. Stefan Hornbostel

Institute for Research
Information and Quality
Assurance (iFQ), Berlin



Prof. Dr. Christoph Kratky

FWF – Austrian Science
Fund, Vienna



**Prof. Dr. Elke Lütjen-
Drecoll**

Academy of Sciences
and Literature, Mainz



Prof. Dr. Luise Schorn-Schütte

Goethe University, Frankfurt
am Main



Prof. Dr. Horst Stöcker

GSI Helmholtz Center
for Heavy Ion Research,
Darmstadt

Looking Back: GRC Events

GRC's "Gewölbesgespräch" in December focused on the Gutenberg Teaching Council (GTC). After a presentation of the GTC by its deputy spokesperson, Prof. Harald Paulsen, the members of GTC and GRC discussed some similarities and differences between the basic concepts and possible funding measures. Many contributors stressed the need for greater cooperation between the two areas. For example, it was pointed out how important it is to have an attractive research environment as a prerequisite for attracting excellent staff for teaching.

A second joint round table of the GRC and Gutenberg Academy took place in January. Following the discussions around the topic "Luck and Happiness in Academic Careers" in May 2011, the Council and the

Academy devoted themselves this time to various aspects of "good scientific practice". Prof. Jürgen Falter led the panel discussion. Participants were Prof. Dieter Dörr, Prof. Hans Wolfgang Spiess and Leonie Mück as members of Academy and GRC, Prof. Jürgen Knop, the Academic Ombudsman at JGU, and Sabine Mönkemöller, Program Director for Research Careers at the German Research Foundation (DFG). The lively discussion on the stage and numerous questions from the audience underscored the importance of the topic. While the broader public tends to focus on issues such as data forgery and plagiarism scandals, these actually only play a minor role in academic life. However, they show how the public perceives academics and research. Other topics included the consequences of the increasing pressure on scientists to publish, authorship issues and problems related to the review process.

Outlook: Annual Celebration

During its annual ceremony on May 21st, the GRC will honor its new fellows. For the first time, the occasion will also be used to bestow the Gutenberg Research Award upon the internationally renowned linguist Leonard Talmy, one of the founding fathers of cognitive linguistics. With the granting of the Gutenberg Research Award, the GRC carries forward the practice established by the Graduate School MAINZ for material sciences some years ago. Henceforth, the GRC will involve all research areas at JGU in the selection process for the award recipient. More information on the event and the awardee will be published in the next newsletter.

Academic Advisory Council

The Academic Advisory Council supports the work of the GRC and advises its Executive Committee. The members of the Advisory Council act as experts when JGU's Center for Quality Assurance and Development (ZQ) carries through the evaluation of the GRC's work. Currently, the following academics from other universities and research institutions are members of the Advisory Council:

- **Prof. Dr. Stefan Hornbostel**, Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance (iFQ), Berlin
- **Prof. Dr. Christoph Kratky**, FWF – Austrian Science Fund, Vienna
- **Prof. Dr. Elke Lütjen-Drecoll**, Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz
- **Prof. Dr. Luise Schorn-Schütte**, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main
- **Prof. Dr. Horst Stöcker**, GSI Helmholtz Center for Heavy Ion Research, Darmstadt



Prof. Dr. Amparo Acker-Palmer,
Institute for Cell Biology
and Neuroscience, Goethe
University Frankfurt/Main

Amparo Acker-Palmer is professor of molecular and cellular neurobiology at Goethe University in Frankfurt and professor in the research unit Translational Neurosciences (FTN) at JGU. She is also one of the leading researchers of the recently established Rhine-Main Neuroscience Network (rmn²). Since 2009, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Cluster of Excellence "Macromolecular Complexes". In 2010, she received the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Award for Young Researchers, which is bestowed on young scientists for outstanding achievements in the area of biomedical research in Germany.



Dr. Anu Korhonen, Department of Cultural History, University of Turku

Anu Korhonen researches and teaches at the University of Turku and is one of the most renowned cultural historians of the younger generation. She has gained prominence particularly due to her research on body and gender history of Early Modern England. She has also worked on methods and theories of cultural studies. In her work, she combines a profound knowledge of historical material with incisive analytical ability and methodical reflection. Before assuming her fellowship in Mainz, she was a Research Fellow at the Academy of Finland at the University of Helsinki and a member of its Department of World Cultures.



Prof. Dr. Axel H.E. Müller,
Department of Chemistry,
University of Bayreuth

Axel Müller has been professor of macromolecular chemistry at the Bayreuth Center for Colloids and Interfaces from 1999 to

2012. Subsequently, he will assume a GRC fellowship at JGU. He is one of the most internationally renowned German polymer chemists. His unusually broad expertise in this area ranges from the fundamentals of polymer production through new nanomaterials to materials science. In 2011, he was appointed as Fellow of the Polymer Chemistry Division by the American Chemical Society, and in 2012, he received the Hermann Staudinger Prize from the Society of German Chemists.



Prof. Dr. Vera Nünning,
Department of English
Philology, Ruprecht Karls
University Heidelberg

Vera Nünning is a professor of English philology at Heidelberg University and a Fellow at "Marsilius Kolleg" in Heidelberg from 2011 to 2012. She has significantly contributed to the current reorientation of the entire English subject area along cultural studies lines. Her publications on cultural science and narrative discourse have influenced research across both national and disciplinary boundaries.



Prof. Dr. Harco Willems,
Departement of Egyptology,
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Harco Willems, who has been professor of Egyptology at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium since 1996, published his first groundbreaking study of burial sites and funeral rites in Ancient Egypt in 1988. Since then, he has established himself as a prominent Egyptologist who looks beyond the boundaries of humanistic theories and issues to enrich his discipline with important new methods and findings. Due to the original nature of his ideas and his multifaceted approach, he is one of the few Egyptologists who have achieved outstanding research results in both philology and archeology.



Excellence Initiative, Program Phase II

In the current Phase II of the Federal Excellence Initiative, the GRC has supported the coordinators of the applications for the Graduate School of Excellence and for the Clusters of Excellence throughout the entire process, from the preparation of the applications to their final reviews.

Cluster of Excellence Earth and the Anthropocene (ERA)
EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

Cluster of Excellence Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions and Structure of Matter (PRISMA)
PARTICLE AND HADRON PHYSICS

Cluster of Excellence Molecularly Controlled Non-Equilibrium (MCNE)
MATERIALS SCIENCE

Follow-up application: Graduate School of Excellence Materials Science in Mainz (MAINZ)
MATERIALS SCIENCE

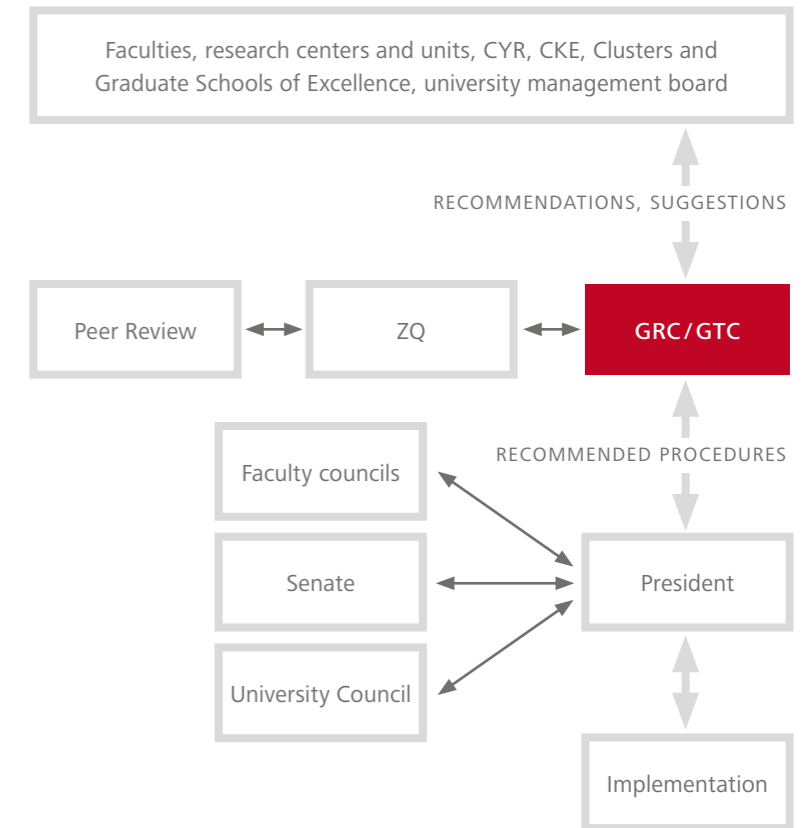
Applications for further funding of the Graduate School (1st funding line) and the establishment of Clusters of Excellence (2nd funding line) are complemented by the third funding line, the institutional strategy for the University as a whole. The strategy which is based on experiences of the GRC focuses on incorporating excellent researchers into the strategic development of the University's management while at the same time strengthening the decentralized decision-making bodies. It is entitled "THE GUTENBERG SPIRIT: Moving Minds – Crossing Boundaries" – highlighting that the University attaches importance to the involvement of as many of its members as possible. In this context, JGU is creating a new structure to support young researchers, from doctoral candidates to researchers applying for professorships. A "College for Young Researchers" (CYR) has therefore been instituted to complement GRC and GTC. In addition, the institutional strategy reflects JGU's commitment to cross-sectional tasks such as gender equality, internationalization and knowledge transfer. Finally, JGU focuses on a professionalization of decentralized management to allow more room for research and teaching.

The Joint Commission of the German Science Council and DFG will release its funding recommendations for all funding lines of the Excellence Initiative in June 2012. Subsequently, the Grants Committee, which includes the state ministers responsible for science and research, will decide on which projects are to be funded.

The GRC's Role in the Institutional Strategy

Based on previous positive experiences with the work of the GRC, the College will play a key role in further shaping the University's profile. In particular, this concerns the ongoing development of the core research areas, where the institutional strategy proposes specific measures (life sciences, humanities and social sciences), as well as other areas that can benefit from the expert committee's strategic advice.

Finally, the measures identified in the institutional strategy would lead to an increasing support of excellent researchers by awarding fellowships leading in turn to a considerable expansion of the GRC network.



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