Dear colleagues,

We are happy to report on many interesting GRC activities. On the following pages we present you some highlights from last year: new research projects and awards, GRC events and of course our new GRC fellows.

In addition to our core business, the support of excellent researchers by granting GRC fellowships, we have discussed the future development of the fellowship program within the executive committee and with members of several faculties. We want to make use of the experience of the last years and of the results of an evaluation conducted by the Center for Quality Assurance and Development (ZQ) in order to make our support measures more effective and more suitable for the needs of different research fields. I would like to encourage you as members of the faculties and research institutions of JGU to bring forward your ideas to shape the GRC fellowships in the most useful way. The needs and potentials of fellowships may vary significantly in the different scientific and artistic areas of JGU, and we always try to use this instrument in a way that the fellows and their research environment will benefit as much as possible from our support. We are looking forward to your ideas!

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Neubert
Director of the GRC

NEW FELLOWS

Prof. Johannes Henn, Institute of Physics, JGU

Johannes Henn is amongst the most outstanding and successful young physicists. He has achieved groundbreaking contributions to a variety of different topics such as Yang-Mills field theories, gauge theory and applications to collider physics. After several years of research at Lyon, Berlin and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton he has become professor of mathematical physics at Johannes Gutenberg University, where his broad range of interests perfectly matches with the research of the phenomenologists, string theorists and mathematicians at the Cluster of Excellence PRISMA and the neighboring institutes.

Prof. Jonathan Kipnis, Department of Neuroscience, University of Virginia

Neuroscientist Jonathan Kipnis is director of the "Center for Brain Immunology and Glia" at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He investigates the complex interactions between immune system and nervous system and is well known for his studies on the function of the adaptive immune system for the normal brain function. As GRC fellow, he will build up and lead a research group on cellular and molecular neuroimmunology at the University Medical Center Mainz. There he will also cooperate with the colleagues of the Focus Program Translational Neurosciences (FTN) and the Research Center for Immunotherapy (FZI) and he will participate in the work of the Transregional Collaborative Research Center "Initiating/effect versus regulatory mechanisms in Multiple Sclerosis – progress towards tackling the disease".

Prof. Klaus Mullen, Institute of Physical Chemistry, JGU; Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research

From 1989 until 2016 Klaus Mullen was director of the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz and is one of the most renowned chemists worldwide. He has received several awards such as the Gauß Medal and the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry. Furthermore, he is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and a honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In his research, he focuses on a variety of topics in the area of organic chemistry, polymer chemistry and material sciences. Recently, he and his research group have made major achievements in soft matter research by the creative synthesis of unprecedented molecular structures. As GRC fellow, he will lead a research group at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of JGU.
ISABEL SCHNABEL, former member of the GRC executive committee, has become professor of financial economics at the University of Bonn.

SVEN HORKE, the GRC network representative, has also accepted an external offer and left JGU. Legal scholar EVA ELLEN WAGNER and computer scientist FRANZ ROTHLAUF have been appointed to the executive committee. CHRISTIAN BERGER has been elected as new GRC network representative.

In April 2015, SVEN BACH, student member of the GRC executive committee, has been appointed as junior member of the Gutenberg Academy for Young Researchers. Furthermore he has finished his PhD studies at the Institute of Inorganic and Analytic Chemistry and thus has left the executive committee.

GRC fellow DETLEF SCHUPPAN, director of the Institute of Translational Immunology (TIM) at the University Medical Center Mainz, has received the Maki Celiac Disease Tampere Prize by the University of Tampere for his pioneering work in the field of celiac disease research.

The expert on the Hebrew Bible and the history of ancient Israel ISAAC KALIMI has been affiliated as honorary member of the Scandinavian Society for Iranian Studies in 2015. Moreover, the GRC fellow has been appointed as corresponding member of the Belgian Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences.

AWARDS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

Former GRC fellow STUART PARKIN, director of the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics in Halle, has received an ERC Advanced Grant to strengthen and advance his research in the field of spintronics.

Physicist and GRC fellow JAyro SINOA has founded the "Spin Phenomena Interdisciplinary Center" (SPICE) at JGU. The center is fostered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the state Rhineland-Palatinate and aims at scientific interchange and cooperation between different disciplines that research on spin phenomena. Sinova is also involved in the new DFG Collaborative Research Center "Spin+X: Spin in its collective environment" of JGU and the University of Kaiserslautern.

Immunologist DETLEF SCHUPPAN leads a working group of the European research project "Elucidating Pathways of Steatohepatitis (EPOS)". The project is funded by the European Commission and examines non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. In addition Schupp has founded, in cooperation with Ulrich Pöschl, director at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, the Mainz Center for Chemical Allergology (MCCA) in order to explore the chemical basis of allergies and hypersensitivities.

In December 2015, the University Medical Center Mainz has opened a new interdisciplinary center for rare diseases of the nervous system under the leadership of SUSANN SCHWEIGER, member of the GRC executive committee and director of the Institute of Human Genetics at JGU.

Physicist FRANK MAAS, member of the GRC executive committee, participates in the Collaborative Research Center "The Low-Energy Frontier of the Standard Model – From Quarks and Gluons to Hadrons and Nuclei", which focuses on the investigation of fundamental questions of the subatomic world. In autumn 2015, the DFG has approved of four more years of funding.

The classical studies scholar DORIS PRECHEL, member of the GRC executive committee, and her team carry forward their project "Archaeological and Chronological Investigation of the Middle Elamite Period at Haft Tappeh" in Iran. The continuing support of the DFG enables the pursuit of the excavations until 2017 to get new insights about the location, one of the most important cities of the Elamite empire, and its history.
Gutenbergs Forscherpreis 2015

Im Mai 2015 hat die GRC einen Forscherpreis an die wissenschaftl. Leistung von Kwok Pui Lan und Kazunori Kataoka verliehen.

Kwok Pui Lan, geboren in Hongkong, lehrt Theologie an der Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, und ist eine der bekanntesten Vertreterinnen des postkolonialen femininen Theologischen Diskurses.

In ihren Studien konzentriert sie sich auf die Wiederbewertung von Missionsgeschichten und Ökumenische Herme.-lehre des historisch formulierten Verständnisses des christlichen Menschenbildes, was ein Hauptthema des Conferences an der JGU ist. Sie zeigt, dass das biblische Verständniss nicht auf Selbstverständlichkeit der christlichen Vergangenheit bezogen ist, sondern auf eine Bewahrung der Erzahlung der biblischen Geschichten als Verständniss von Wirklichkeit.

Kazunori Kataoka, lehrt an der Universitaet Tokio und entwickelt Nanoversorgungskonzepte, die auf der Basis von langketten-Molekülstrukturen arbeiten. Er ist einer der Pioniere dieser Methode und entwickelt neue Konzepte für die Medikamentenverki.-lung in Zielgeweb.- Areale.

In their joint Round Table, members of the GRC and the Gutenberg Academy discussed “International Academic Careers”. Petra Beli, leader of an Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group at the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB), junior professor Gesa zur Nieden from the Institute of Musicology of JGU and the GRC fellow and Alexander von Humboldt Professor Jairo Sinova introduced the topic. They portrayed the experience that they gained in the course of their scientific careers in different countries and different academic systems. Together with the experts Rainer Henkel-von Klaß from the International Office and Nicole Birkle, Julia Doré and Silvia Tschauder from the research departments of JGU and the University Medical Center, the participants discussed the importance of international experience for academic careers and the issue of the internationalization of German universities.