



Together We Are Strong Clinical Research Platforms at the GSF

The idea is by no means new: scientists from different disciplines run a joint research unit in which they use the same resources and the same communication system and design joint studies. What is, however, rather new is the establishment of research platforms at the interface between laboratory and bedside. The GSF already operates three of these – instruments of translational research par excellence.

Apart from important institutions with an experimental orientation, such as the German Mouse Clinic or the Genome Analysis Center, the GSF also operates three research platforms near clinics. They each work on special interdisciplinary questions and consistently implement their findings for the prevention, diagnosis and therapy of diseases together. These are the Immune Monitoring Platform, the Antibody Platform as well as the KORA research platform.

Headed by Prof. Dr. Dolores Schendel, the scientists from the Immune Monitoring Platform utilize clinical studies to develop, standardize and validate new methods for the best possible monitoring of ongoing immune responses. It is only with a variety of methods that the effect of the therapies individually adapted to the patient can be optimally evaluated. Clinical partners benefit from the latest technologies of the platform without having to establish the complex processes themselves.

Since 1995 Dr. Elisabeth Kremmer and her working group have been producing large quantities of high-quality antibodies in the research platform Monoclonal Antibodies. In close contact with partners in research they develop the antibodies best suited for each requirement. In 2000 the physician and her colleagues were awarded the Erwin Schrödinger Prize for the special quality of the antibodies.

The health platform KORA of the GSF is also situated near a clinic. The scientists keep a database which they have collected over a period of more than 20 years together with their local partner, the Zentralklinikum Augsburg. Thanks to the detailed examination of

and interviews with 18,000 participants in the study many different questions on the risk factors of all cardiovascular diseases can be investigated. Numerous external partners from other research institutions, clinics and universities participate in the studies. They benefit from the excellent data management and the enormous expertise of the scientists on the KORA platform.

All three platforms cooperate with research partners in a worldwide network and continually introduce new strategies into clinical application.