

Preface



Professor Dr. Günther Wess



Dr. Nikolaus Blum

In 2006, the GSF concentrated on sharpening its profile, making its objectives clearer and redefining its vision. In doing so we were able to rely on the outstanding research work we have done in recent years, and it was important to us to gather suggestions from all scientific levels and to discuss them openly both internally and externally. A very special vote of thanks goes out to everyone involved in this process, especially the members of the Scientific and Technical Board

for their often time-consuming but always expedient dialogue with us. The great dedication of everyone involved enabled us to formulate targets that everybody supports.

The GSF contributes to the foundation of Future Medicine and Health Care and explores environmental influences on human health. The focus of our scientific work is the question of how genetic predisposition, the biological system and environmental factors interact. We aim to elucidate the molecular mechanisms of environment-related ailments such as allergies and pulmonary conditions, to investigate effects of fine dust and aerosols, to examine the response of tumours to therapy and to gain a better under-

standing of the ecosystemic structure of natural resources, such as plants, water and soil.

Translational research has been an important centre of attention in our scientific programme for many years. By expanding and improving the structure of the Clinical Cooperation Groups we have added to our competencies in this field while also further intensifying our already excellent cooperation with Munich's universities. This has helped us to reflect many laboratory results in the clinical environment even more quickly and take clinical results back to the laboratory. Some of these exceptional pieces of work are presented in this report.

In the year under review the GSF was once again very successful at raising third-party funds. We are well above the average approval rate for EU projects.

We have continued unerringly on our path of promoting young scientists, particularly young woman scientists. This began with a doubling of kindergarten capacities, continued with the establishment of special female junior research groups and went all the way to the EU-funded "Pallas Athene" project for young woman scientists.

Political consulting has always been another important pillar of the GSF. Here too we have great successes to report such as the EU Fine Dust Directive that we helped initiate and the discussion triggered by us on revising the German radiation protection regulations.

In particular we would like to thank the entire GSF staff for their invaluable work, which is of course the basis for our future. We thank the Supervisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Board for their constructive and critical cooperation, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Bavarian State Government for providing funds.



Günther Wess
President and CEO



Nikolaus Blum
COO