

Looking Back at 2006



Dr. Irmela Jeremias

11 January

Tracking Down Programmed Cell Death: GSF Junior Research Group Examines the Mechanisms of Apoptosis

On 12 January a tumour research group starts its work at the Department of Gene Vectors of the GSF National Research Center for Environment and Health. Under the leadership of PD Dr. Irmela Jeremias, the group will investigate the mechanisms of apoptosis or programmed cell death. The junior research group position was specifically opened to women as one of the GSF activities for the promotion of young women scientists.

12 January

A Focus on Neural Networks: Start of a New Junior Research Group at the GSF

On 15 January a neurobiology research group starts its work at the



Dr. Andrea Huber Brösamle

Institute of Developmental Genetics of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health. Under the leadership of Dr. Andrea Huber Brösamle the group will investigate the mechanisms of the growth of axons, or nerve fibres. The junior research group position was specifically opened to women as one of the GSF activities for the promotion of young women scientists.



18 January

GSF Takes the Lead in Raising European Union Funds: Scientists at the Research Center Awarded Nearly 20 Million Euros Since 2002

The European Union Research Framework Programme is probably the largest support programme in the world for research projects. The main aim of the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006) is to strengthen and structure European research more efficiently. Scientists from the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health also actively participate in the 6th Framework Programme. Shortly before it ended, they show that they have been extraordinarily successful in raising European Union funds: So far the GSF has received € 19.5 million, distributed over 47 accepted proposals. Altogether 33 per cent of the proposals submitted by GSF scientists in the first to third calls in the 6th Framework Programme (between 2002 and the end of 2005) were successful. The GSF is among the most successful applicants in German research and its acceptance rate is clearly above the average of about 18 per cent throughout the European Union-.



Prof. Hans-Jochem Kolb

19 January

New Methods in the Fight Against Leukaemia and Malignant Tumours

International experts in leukaemia treatment, cancer research, and immunology meet from 22 to 25 January 2006 at the 7th International Symposium on Immunotherapy organised by the University of Munich together with the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, the German José Carreras Leukaemia Foundation, and the Aktion Knochenmarkspende Bayern (Action for Bone Marrow Donation Bavaria). The aim of the symposium is the exchange of new findings among clinical physicians and research scientists from around the world in order to develop new approaches to the treatment of leukaemia and malignant diseases related to blood formation.

1 February

New Administrative Managing Director at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health

On 1 February the Administrative Managing Director of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, Dr. Hans Jahreiß, joins the headquarters of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Garching near Munich as Head of Administration.



Dr. Hans Jahreis



Dr. Nikolaus Blum

His successor as Administrative Managing Director of the GSF is the lawyer Dr. Nikolaus Blum, who headed the Personnel Department of the Center until mid-1997.

9 February

GSF Most Important European Research Establishment in the Field of Air Pollutants

The GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health is number one among European research establishments in air pollutant research. This is the result of a ranking of the most widely cited publications on air pollution over the past ten years, published by 'Essential Science Indicators'.



20 March

Chernobyl – 20 Years On

On the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl reactor disaster some 20 science journalists from Stuttgarter Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Zeit, Welt, TAZ und ZDF (German Television) join scientists from the Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS, Society for Plant and Reactor Safety) and the GSF in a study tour to look at the impact in Belarus and the Ukraine. The journey is organised and carried out by the GRS and the GSF.



22 March

German Cancer Award 2006 for Martin Göttlicher

Today Professor Martin Göttlicher, Director of the Institute of Toxicology of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, receives the German Cancer Award from the Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft (German Cancer Society) for „important contributions to the study of the development, diagnosis or treatment of cancer“.



29 March

From Roentgen to Chernobyl – Benefits and Risks of Radiation

„Radiation – from Roentgen to Chernobyl“ is the title of the new issue of the GSF magazine „mensch+umwelt“. With this 64-page magazine, the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health reaches out to the interested public looking for information on fundamental questions about the effects and risks of ionising radiation.

13 June

Excellent Neuroresearch at the GSF: Dr. Laure Bally-Cuif Is Awarded Heinz Meier-Leibnitz Prize

Bally-Cuif convinces the selection committee with her outstanding achievements in the neurosciences. At the Institute of Developmental Genetics of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, she investigates which mechanisms and factors regulate the development of nerve cells and the nervous system as well as the function of the brain of vertebrates, focusing on the midbrain and hindbrain region of Zebrafish. The Heinz Meier-Leibnitz Prize has



been awarded to young scientists in recognition of outstanding achievements since 1977. The prize is worth € 16,000 and is intended to help the winners to pursue their scientific career.

23 June

Environment Prize for Bavarian High School Graduates

On Tuesday 27 June 2006, the Undersecretary of since 1977 Dr. Otmar Bernhard awards the prizes in this year's „Carl Friedrich von Martius Environment Prize“ to ten Bavarian high school graduates in a celebration at the GSF Research Center, Neuherberg. There were a total of 101 entries in the competition, out of which four girls and six boys were awarded prizes worth a total of € 7,500 for their school research papers. The participants had to work on environmental or health topics. The prize is awarded in commemoration of the Bavarian tropical researcher and physician Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius (1794 – 1868).



6 July

The Benefits of Science: European Union Commissioner Markos Kyprianou Visits the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health

Recent results and new approaches to health research are the focus of the visit of EU Commissioner Markos Kyprianou today, Thursday, to the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health. At the Neuherberg research facility, the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection gathers information about topics relevant to his departmental brief. The evaluation of health costs, smoking and health, the networking of epidemiological projects and the prospects for inhalation therapy were at the centre of interest.



9 – 14 July

„nano“ Camp 2006: Experiencing Science as an Adventure

Discover, investigate, experiment wildly: twelve young people have the chance to experience science as an adventure at the „nano“-Camp from 9 to 14 July 2006. In the Year of Computer Science the 3sat future magazine „nano“ and the Munich Research Center for Environment and Health (GSF) invites 16- to 18-year-olds to the fifth „nano“-Camp. For one week they do not go to school, but learn a lot every day anyway. They also appear on television: „nano“ shows daily what they experienced and investigated.

11 July

„Pallas Athene“: Opening Meeting with Minister of State Christa Stewens

Minister of State Christa Stewens gives the go-ahead for the initiative „Women in Science – Science for Women“ at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health. In presentations on various topics outstanding women



Minister of State Christa Stewens

scientists will describe individual projects to representatives from industry, science and politics. The event is intended to draw particular attention to the work of women scientists and to give them more support. It is part of a programme supported by the European Union with a total of € 220,000 under the category Science and Society in which the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health participates together with five other centres from the Helmholtz Association.



7 September
International Initiative for the Elucidation of the Function of All Genes Started

The Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis Project EUCOMM, funded by the European community with € 13 million, and its Canadian partner project NorCOMM receive support from the USA: today, 7 September, is the start of the American National Institutes of Health Knockout Mouse Project (KOMP). The three large projects will work in close co-operation to mutate virtually all the genes of the mouse genome, so that mouse models can be used to elucidate the functions of all genes.

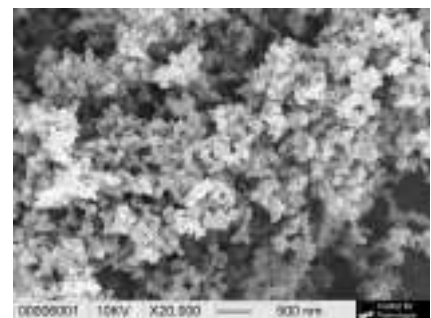


8 September
HASSIP 06: Biomathematicians from All Over the World Meet at Neuherberg

The Institute of Biomathematics and Biometry of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health holds an international workshop on 'Multiscale Methods, Sparse Decompositions and Parsimonious Statistics' from 11–14 September 2006. The workshop is designed as the final event of the European Research and Training Network on Harmonic Analysis and Statistics for Signal and Image Processing (HASSIP), and deals with the linking of methods of harmonic analysis and statistical modelling for image and signal processing.

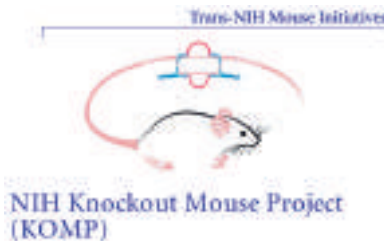
18 September
Effects of Fine Particles and Traffic Pollution on Health:

Two New Publications on Mortality and Respiratory Disease in 4800 Women from North Rhine-Westphalia
 An important paper on the impacts



21 September
100 Years of the Asse II Research Mine

More than 400 visitors celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Asse mine. In his commemorative address the Director, Guenther Kappei, outlines the eventful history of the mine from the mining of potash and salt to the final disposal of low- and medium-level radioactive waste and finally the preparation for closure.



of fine particles and traffic pollution on mortality in Germany appears in the September issue of the scientific journal ‚Epidemiology‘. These new results support a recently published study on the occurrence of respiratory disease.

22 September

Munich Children – What Risks Are They Really Exposed to? The GSF-National Research Center and Münchener Rück Stiftung (Munich Re Foundation) Invite to a Discussion

The GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and the Münchener Rück Stiftung organise a panel discussion in Munich on Thursday evening on the topic ‚Munich children – what risks are they really exposed to?‘ Interested Munich residents and representatives of environmental and health authorities and from politics and the industry are invited. The evening is the first of a series of discussion forums with which the two organisers – science and industry working together – pursue the common goal of raising the awareness of the Munich population of genuine risks.



29 September

Invitation to the Panel Discussion ‚Soupy Air in the City – Do Fine Particles Make the Residents of Munich Sick?‘

On Thursday, 5 October the GSF-Research Center continues its series of panel discussions with the Münchener Rück Stiftung on ‚Risks for Munich Residents‘. The second evening is devoted to a topic that has recently moved to the forefront again following the recent European Union resolutions: ‚Soupy Air in the City – Do Fine Particles Make the Residents of Munich Sick?‘

2 October

Lysimeter Workshop at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health

An international workshop on ‚Lysimeters for Global Change Research: Biological Processes and the Environmental Fate of Pollutants‘ is held from 4 – 6 October at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health. Over the three days nationally and internationally renowned scientists discuss current developments in the field.

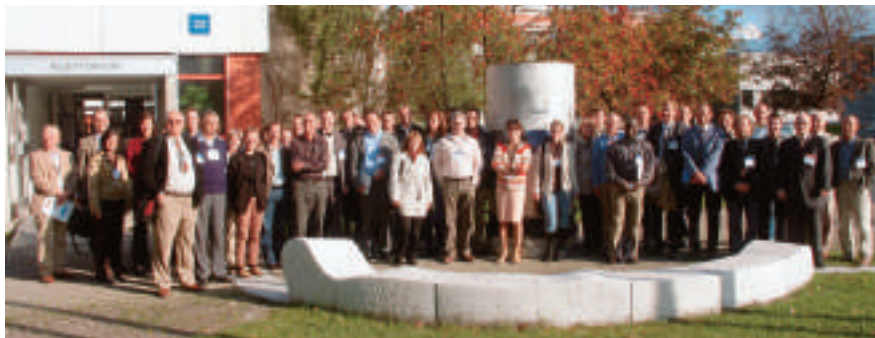
9 October

New Gene Discovered for Hereditary Form of Rickets

Scientists from the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health have identified mutations causing a specific form of hereditary rickets due to phosphate deficiency. As the research team of the human geneticist Dr. Tim Strom reports in the renowned scientific journal Nature Genetics, the mutations occur in a gene on chromosome 4 which is responsible for the production of dentin matrix protein.



Dr. Tim Strom





9 November

The Next Flu Wave is Bound to Come – How Well is Munich Prepared for an Epidemic?

The GSF continues its panel discussions with the Münchener Rück Stiftung on ‚Risks for Munich Residents‘. Experts and citizens discuss the topic ‚If and when it comes -- How well is Munich prepared for an epidemic?‘ at the Bavarian State Library. What are the health risks from infectious diseases? Bird flu and influenza – how dangerous are they? How well prepared are the city and the State of Bavaria for a pandemic? How are physicians and hospitals preparing for an emergency? Vaccination, reserve stocks of drugs, and more – what really helps?

20 November

Dialogue Between Art and Science: Works by the Artist Dirk Rathke at the GSF-National Research Center

The GSF continues its series of dialogues between art and science with room designs and visual objects by the artist Dirk Rathke. The exhibition focuses on the



Dirk Rathke

presentation of the concept of temporary locally-fixed wall paintings. Rathke studied in Berlin at the Hochschule der Künste until 1997 and then as a master class student with Raimund Girke and Kuno Gonschior. He has created several room designs and visual objects in Germany and Switzerland.

21 November

Start of „School Goes to Research“

Today the GSF and the Munich Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium (state grammar/high school) present their project for sustainable basic scientific education. To start with, the young researchers will collect scientific data on the relationship between temperature and sunlight up to the middle of February 2007 at their school. The project will run for five years.



29 November

Great Responsibility for Politicians and Journalists in Dealing with Risks:

Invitation to a Discussion from the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and Münchener Rück Stiftung

The focus in the fifth and last of the panel discussions in the series ‚Risks for Munich Residents‘ organised by the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and the Münchener Rück Stiftung is not the risks as such, but how to deal with them. More than 120 representatives of local authorities, physicians, teachers and other interested Munich residents follow the invitation and join the discussion with high-ranking representatives from science, politics and the media.

6 December

Excellent Fine Particle Measurement: Aerosol Measurement Station is „Leitprojekt 2006 des Kompetenzzentrums Umwelt“ (Lead Project 2006 of the Bavarian Competence Centre for the Environment)

The Augsburg aerosol monitoring station of the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health



and its project partners are awarded the title ‚Offizielles Leitprojekt 2006 des Kompetenzzentrums Umwelt‘ (Official Lead Project of the Bavarian Competence Centre for the Environment) for its contribution to environmental and health protection.

The GSF co-operation partners are the Wissenschaftszentrum Umwelt (WZU, Environment Science Centre) and the Chair of Solid-State Chemistry of the University of Augsburg, the University of Augsburg, the Augsburg University of Applied Sciences (FH) and the Bavarian Institute of Applied Environmental Research and Technology (BlfA). At the GSF the Institutes of Epidemiology and Ecological Chemistry and the project field Health Relevance of Aerosols are involved in the project.

7 December

GSF Scientist Is Awarded the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize
Award Highlights the Importance of Neuberberg Stem Cell Research
Today the German Research Foundation (DFG) publishes the list of the winners of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2007, the most valuable German award for the promotion of science.

One of the awards goes to the stem cell scientist Professor Magdalena Goetz from the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich.



14 December

Polonium-210: No Dangerous Contamination Found in Aircraft Passengers

After traces of polonium were found in three British Airways airplanes, the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health and the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe offered to carry out polonium analyses of people where there were grounds for suspicion. Since then both centres have held a large number of discussions with those affected and in a few cases carried out polonium analyses. So far – as expected – no high levels of polonium contamination were found in any of the samples.



20 December

Future Forum Science at the GSF: Ethics in Medicine and Biology

Yesterday renowned experts discussed the question ‚Ethics – a Question of Location?‘ at the GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health as part of the Future Forum Science.

„The GSF addresses questions related to the broader society that arise as a result of our scientific research“, explains the Scientific Managing Director of the GSF, Professor Günther Wess. It is important to look further afield, far from science and any publications. Especially in research into the medicine of the future, a central focus of the GSF, the awareness of global connections, makes it possible to learn from other sciences and other countries.

