AARC DOCTORAL CONFERENCE
DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF UNIVERSITY IN RIJEKA

University of Rijeka Department building – University Campus Ul.
19th and 20th September 2019.

3ST CONFERENCE CALL: LECTURERS

Prof. Matthias Schwab

Professor and Chair of Clinical Pharmacology, University Tuebingen, director of Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Stuttgart and Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University Hospital Tuebingen, Germany. He participates in and/or coordinates a number of national/international research networks and is member of several committees (e.g. President of the German Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Member of the Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz, Germany), received numerous awards, Editor of Pharmacogenetics & Genomics and Section Editor of Genome Medicine for Pharmacogenomics & Personalized Medicine. His scientific accomplishments include >350 peer reviewed publications (HI 80). His scientific interests focus on pharmacogenomics in cancer therapy particularly related to ADME genes under consideration of the application of novel –omics technologies such as genomics, proteomics and metabolomics. His special interest lies in the implementation of research findings into clinical practice. Beyond that he is particularly interested in the application of new technologies, such as pharmacological genome research.

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Prof. Nandu Goswami

Nandu Goswami is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Physiology. His main area of research is cardiovascular physiology, cerebral autoregulation and how these aspects are modulated by gender. He has been conducting cardiovascular physiology studies for over 10 years and has been involved as principal investigator and co-Investigator on several European Space Agency (ESA) funded projects including bed-rest and short-arm centrifuges. He has been a major contributor to the Artificial Gravity research consortium with several co-authored papers with the group on the effects of bed rest and short-arm centrifuges on human physiology and the use of short-arm centrifuges as a countermeasure. In addition to being a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), European Partnership on Active and Healthy Aging (EIP-AHA), European Geriatrics Medical Society (EUGMS), Dr Goswami is the Secretary General of the Austrian Physiological Society.

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Prof. Riccardo Alessandro

Riccardo Alessandro is a full professor of Biology and Genetics at the School of Medicine of the University of Palermo in Italy. He actually works at the Department of Biomedicine, Neurosciences and Advanced Diagnostics where he is involved in several research projects focused on the understanding of the role played by exosomes in the modulation of the tumor microenvironment. Recently he has studied how exosomes released from multiple myeloma cells can affect bone disease by activation of osteoclastogenesis and inhibition of osteogenesis in host bone marrow. He is also cofounder of navhetec, a spinoff of the University of Palermo, mainly involved in the isolation and characterization of nanovesicles from plants and their use as nutraceuticals.

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Dr. David del Álamo

Dr. David del Álamo is the Head of the EMBO Fellowship Programme. Together with the fellowships team he monitors, directs and oversees the correct application and implementation of policies and procedures affecting the Fellowship programme to make sure that fellowship applications are properly processed, evaluated and awarded on time. David is responsible for the three types of fellowships EMBO provides at the moment: EMBO Short Term Fellowships, EMBO Longterm Fellowships and EMBO Advanced fellowships. As Head of the programme, David is also responsible for the organization of additional activities such as the yearly EMBO Fellows Meeting and the development of the programme taking into consideration emerging needs in the scientific community. David also represents EMBO at international events presenting the range of activities in which the organization is involved

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Prof. Marc-Thorsten Hütt

Professor Dr. Marc-Thorsten Hütt studied physics in Göttingen and Paris and received his PhD in Göttingen in 1997. Following longer research stays in Novosibirsk, Paris, Warsaw and Darmstadt, he became an Assistant Professor of Theoretical Biology and Bioinformatics in 2001 at Darmstadt University of Technology. In 2006 he moved to Jacobs University in Bremen, accepting a Professorship in Computational Systems Biology. From 2000 to 2005 he was a member of "Die Junge Akademie", an institution founded by Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften and Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina. Since 2019 he is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. Among his research interests is the development of mathematical tools for analyzing biological pattern formation, the analysis and modeling of large-scale statistical properties of genomes, as well as studying the link between topology and dynamics in biological networks. He uses methods from nonlinear dynamics, the theory of complex networks and information theory, in order to analyze biological systems. In particular, he has developed and applied network-based data analysis methods to metabolomics data, transcriptome data and imaging data. His textbooks on bioinformatics and on data analysis in biology bridge the gap between modern theoretical developments and experimental efforts in the life sciences.

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Dr. Michael Menden

Dr. Michael P. Menden is a Junior Group Leader at the Institute of Computational Biology (Helmholtz Zentrum München) since 2019, and is responsible for the Computational Biomedicine Group. Previously, he worked as Senior Scientist in Oncology Bioinformatics, AstraZeneca, UK. He was a PhD student and postdoctoral fellow at EMBL-EBI, UK. His PhD was awarded in Computational Biology by the University of Cambridge, UK in 2016. In 2017, Dr Menden was appointed an Honorary Lecturer position at the University of Sheffield, UK. Dr Menden is a specialist in the analysis of cancer cell pharmacogenomics high-throughput screens including monotherapy, drug combinations and lately, CRISPR lethality and drug resistance screens. He developed machine learning and statistical methods to predict drug sensitivity and synergy, as well as derived genetic biomarkers of these responses. This work enables patient stratification based on molecular profiles, which is the key pillar of precision medicine.

Prof. Natasa Przulj

Nataša Pržulj is Professor of Biomedical Data Science and recognized for initiating extraction of biomedical knowledge from the wiring patterns (topology, structure) of "Big Data" real-world molecular (omics) and other networks. That is, she views the wiring patterns of large and complex omics networks, disease ontologies, clinical patient data, drug-drug and drug-target interaction networks etc., as a new source of information that complements the genetic sequence data and needs to be mined and meaningfully integrated to gain deeper biomedical understanding. Her recent work includes designing machine learning methods for integration of heterogeneous biomedical and molecular data, applied to advancing biological and medical knowledge. She also applies her methods to economics.

Prof. Srećko Gajović

Srećko Gajović, MD, PhD, is a professor and Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb and part of the Croatian Institute for Brain Research (CIBR). He is a member of the Croatian Society for Neuroscience, where he was a member of the supervisory board, and the Croatian Association of Genetic Engineers. His scientific interest focuses mainly on neuroscience, molecular biology and genetics. Recent scientific publications are focused on use of neural stem cells to monitor and evaluate neuronal differentiation and morphology as well as application of nanotechnology, particularly how surface coatings affect cytotoxicity, in neural stem cells.

Prof. Johann Wojta

Johann Wojta, PhD, Associate Professor for Medical Physiology, is Head of the Organisational Unit Core Facilties and Head of Research at the Division of Cardiology at the Department of Internal Medicine II at the Medical University of Vienna. He is also Head of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cardiovascular Research. He has published 337 papers in peer reviewed journals according to https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=wojta+j and he has a Hirsh-index of 60 according to https://scholar.google.at/citations?hl=de&user=CnvsdmYAAAAJ. Johann Wojta is Associate Editor of Cardiovascular Research, Section Editor of Thrombosis and Haemostasis and on the Editorial Board of Vascular Pharmacology. He is also Secretary of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science of the European Society of Cardiology. His group focusses on various aspects of the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis thereby integrating basic and clinical research. In particular, human primary cell types involved in this disease process, such as endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells, cardiac myoyctes and fibroblasts, monocytes and macrophages, and preadipocytes and adipocytes and various mouse models are used as in vitro and in vivo models, respectively, to study processes involved in the development and progression of atherosclerosis, such as inflammatory activation induced by particular cytokines, matrix degradation and remodeling by proteases and angiogenesis and neovascularization.