

PhDnet Steering Group Newsletter

January - May 2018



1 What we've been up to

Our meeting with MPS President Prof Martin Stratmann

In April we had a successful meeting with Prof Stratmann to discuss last year's successes, the outcomes of the [survey](#) and how to best prepare MPS doctoral researchers for their careers (see also below). Another topic which we hope to push further this year is the issue of combining parenthood and PhD. In line with this, we want to point you to the [newly updated Schnullerprogramm](#), an MPS initiative to financially support doctoral researchers on a Fördervertrag with childcare



The Steering Group with Prof Stratmann (centre), Ilka Schießler-Gäbler (left) and Kerstin Dübner-Gee (right)

costs. After its pilot phase, the programme has been extended and now covers children up to 36 months of age. **Apply now** via your local administration!

Further collaboration with the General Administration

This year the GA relocated responsibilities for early career researchers into the new department for "development and chances", headed by Kerstin Dübner-Gee. The PhDnet made an effort to be present as a collaboration partner and source of innovation and ideas from the very beginning. In March we presented our ideas for an MPS-wide career strategy and will be working together on the implementation of career measures. We are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration!

Political activity with N²

Founded in March 2017, the network of PhD representations from Helmholtz, Leibniz and Max Planck has become the largest representation of PhDs in Germany. In spring 2018, the board members visited members of the parliament from CDU, SPD, die LINKE and Bündnis90/die Grünen to present itself and look for partners to push [our agenda](#) on a federal level. We encountered large interest in the data from our survey and the views of early career researchers and will continue the series of meetings with the minister for education and research, Anja Karliczek (CDU).

2 Save the dates!

Visions in Science IV: Science & Society will take place in Berlin this year from **5th - 7th October**.

Our **PhDnet General Meeting** will take place in Tübingen this year from **5th - 7th November**!

Great news - attendance for both Visions in Science and the General Meeting is **free** for doctoral researchers of the MPS!

3 Some new faces



Maria Eichel is a doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, Germany. For two years she contributed to the **Offspring blog** and supported the MPI-EM as an internal representative organizing events, retreats and creating a closer PhD community within the institute. We want to thank Ezgi for her service as representative for the Biology & Medicine section and welcome Maria, who will continue for the second half of the term.

Angel Aguinaldo is part of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany, wherein she also serves as its external representative. She is a lawyer from the Philippines and will support the Steering Group as the deputy for Julia Misersky (representative for the Humanities section), who will be on maternity leave from July until November.



4 Get in touch!

Questions, comments or concerns? Don't hesitate to get in touch with us **via email** or **Facebook**!