

Newsletter PhDnet Steering group

January – June 2019



Achievements

We would like to highlight what we as a steering group have been up to thus far. Earlier this year we received the confirmation of 30 days of vacation. The number of vacation days has been a major topic for the SG over the last years. We would like to thank everyone before us who worked on making this a reality. Additionally we want to raise attention to the recent social media campaign highlighting what Doctoral Researchers (DRs) will do with their 10 more days. Last month the 2018 survey was published. We strongly suggest the PhDnet representatives inquire about their institutes' results and present the results at their institute. In order to do so just send an Email to the survey group (survey.group@phdnet.de). We believe communicating the results will facilitate change within the MPIs and also start discussions locally about what can be improved.



Meetings with MPS President Prof. Martin Stratmann and MPS General Secretary Prof. Ruediger Willems.

Recently we've had fruitful discussions with Prof. Stratmann and Prof. Willems on how far we've come with the working conditions of DRs and our future goals. A main topic of last year's general meeting was the Foerdervertrag. We discussed the need to increase the salary to a livable and competitive amount (~ 65% of TvoeD). One goal we discussed for this year is to improve the onboarding process of DRs. In addition we addressed the need to enact binding regulations in the MPS to prepare all meetings in institutes with at least with English slides in order to make them accessible for non-German speaking employees. Mr. Willems was very supportive of this effort. Accordingly, we encourage you to demand this locally if not followed. Another clear concern with DRs within the MPS is improving transparency in the director appointment process. Prof. Stratmann and Prof. Willems both agreed in the importance in involving DRs in this process. Overall we look forward to how we can work together to achieve these goals.

If you want more frequent updates about our activities, follow us on your preferred social media platform or visit our homepage (<https://www.phdnet.mpg.de>):



Activities to get involved with:

If you are not yet active in our [working groups](#), get involved! The following groups will welcome additional help to realize their projects:

Open Science (organization of an Open Science - Ambassadors Conference)

Organizational help with the Mental Health Awareness Week

Contribution to the PhDnet Magazine and Blog "The Offspring"

Save the dates:

Alumni Symposium: September 1-4th, Berlin, Harnack Haus

<https://www.mpg.de/symposium2019>

Mental Health Awareness Week: October 7-11th, at every institute!

<https://www.phdnet.mpg.de/50740/Mental-Health-Awareness>

General Meeting: November 4-6th, Goettingen

https://www.phdnet.mpg.de/4956/general_meeting

N2 event: November 13-15th, Berlin, Umweltforum

www.n2-network.net/conference

Open Ambassadors Meeting: December 9-11th, Berlin, Harnack Haus