

Medical Scientist Network Symposium

Münster, 22-24 March 2026

University of Münster, Multiscale Imaging Centre, Röntgenstraße 16

research & careers – networking – visibility
for natural scientists in medical research

*a joint symposium by the Medical Scientist Schools at the Universities
of Duisburg-Essen, Göttingen, Hamburg, Mainz and Münster*

funded by



Sunday, 22 March 2026

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| 17:30-18:00 | Arrival and reception |
| 18:00-19:00 | KEYNOTE |
| Auditorium | A career path as a medical scientist with a research focus on “Spatial insights into the human lung – implications for transplantation and cancer” <i>Prof. Dr Christine Falk, Hannover</i> <i>Biologist, member of the German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat) and review board member of the German Research Foundation</i> |

GET-TOGETHER & DINNER

(Ristorante Il Gondoliere, Von-Esmarch-Straße 28, Münster)

Monday, 23 March 2026

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| 9:00-9:45 | OPENING |
| Auditorium | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Dr Petra Dersch <i>Spokesperson for the Medical Scientist Programme ‘InFlame’, Münster</i>Prof. Dr Sven Brandau <i>Spokesperson for the Medical Scientist Academy ‘UMESciA’, Essen</i> |
| WELCOMING ADDRESSES | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Müller <i>Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Münster</i>Prof. Dr Anke Hinney <i>Vice Dean for Academic Career Development and Diversity, Faculty of Medicine, Duisburg-Essen</i> |
| INTRO: The mission of Else Kröner – who, if not us? | |
| | <p>Dr Alexander Lehmann, <i>Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation (EKFS)</i></p> |
| 9:45-10:45 | Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists – five examples |
| Auditorium | <p><i>Chair: Dr Alexander Lehmann</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">UMESciA – University Medicine Essen Medical Scientist Academy <i>Prof. Dr Sven Brandau, Essen</i>Genomic responses to disease plasticity <i>Prof. Dr Argyris Papantonis, Göttingen</i>iPRIME – Integrative (inter-)organ immunology and career development for medical phd-scientist <i>Prof. Dr Tobias Huber, Hamburg</i>TheRNAtics: RNA-based therapy strategies in tumor immunology and immune-mediated diseases <i>Prof. Dr Tobias Bopp, Mainz</i>InFlame – Dynamics of inflammatory reactions <i>Prof. Dr Petra Dersch, Münster</i> |
| 10:45-11:00 | Group picture |
| | <i>Foyer</i> |

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:45

Auditorium

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Medical scientists – the role and specific needs of our professional group

How can we define the term 'medical scientist'? What's the role of this professional group and what are the benefits? What specific needs do we see for the career development of medical scientists? And how can we implement specific funding in the German research landscape?

Impulses and moderation: Prof. Dr Petra Dersch, Prof. Dr Sven Brandau

LUNCH

14:00-15:00

Auditorium

Medical progress needs medical scientists: presentation of scientific projects

Tandem-talks about career paths and research projects from both PIs and fellows

Chair: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists

- **Scientific projects Essen**
- **Scientific projects Göttingen**
- **Scientific projects Hamburg**
- **Scientific projects Mainz**
- **Scientific projects Münster**

15:00-16:00

SPEED NETWORKING

Informal exchange among colleagues from various career levels and disciplines

COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:15

Seminar B-D

WORLD CAFÉ BRAINSTORMING: Research and career support for medical scientists

- **How can research and career development support and structures look like? Experiences and examples**
Moderation: Prof. Dr Petra Dersch, Münster
- **The power of mentoring – experiences from mentees and mentors**
Moderation: Prof. Dr Tobias Bopp, Mainz
- **How can a German Medical Scientist Network look like?**
Moderation: Prof. Dr Sven Brandau, Essen

17:15-18:00

Auditorium

Presentation and discussion of the brainstorming results

How can we lift the potential for the benefit of translational research in Germany?

Moderation: Prof. Dr Tobias Bopp, Prof. Dr Sven Brandau, Prof. Dr Petra Dersch

GET-TOGETHER & DINNER

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 09:00-10:00 Auditorium | Medical progress needs medical scientists: presentation of scientific projects <i>Tandem-talks about career paths and research projects from both PIs and fellows</i> <i>Chair: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific projects Essen• Scientific projects Göttingen• Scientific projects Hamburg• Scientific projects Mainz• Scientific projects Münster |
| 10:00-11:00 Auditorium | PANEL DISCUSSION: “I did it my way” – about challenges, drawbacks and how to find your path in academia <i>Moderation: Maren Telsemeyer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Prof. Dr Noelia Alonso Gonzalez, Münster</i>• <i>Prof. Dr Ulf Dittmer, Essen</i>• <i>Prof. Dr Tim Lämmermann, Münster</i>• <i>Prof. Dr Astrid Westendorf, Essen</i> |
| COFFEE BREAK | |
| 11:30-12:15 Auditorium | From science to start-up: Medical scientists as founders <i>Chair: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Dr Matthias Kiel, REACH Münster</i>• <i>Dr Hatim Hemedha, PL BioScience GmbH</i> |
| 12:15-12:45 Auditorium | POSTER PITCHES: The relevance of my research for medical science <i>Chair: Prof. Dr Annette Paschen</i> |
| LUNCH & POSTER VISITS | |
| 14:15-15:00 Seminar A + F | PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can we initiate a Medical Scientist Network? tasks and benefits, financing and administration <i>Moderation: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists</i>• Visibility of medical scientists – analogue statement of intent, relevant publication channels and stakeholders <i>Moderation: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists</i>• Visibility of medical scientists – digital Wikipedia entry to define “medical scientist”, plus other platforms <i>Moderation: Members of the Else Kröner Schools for Medical Scientists</i> |
| 15:00-15:45 Auditorium | Where to go from here? <i>Formation of a Medical Scientist Task Force and implementation of the workshop results</i> <i>Moderation: Prof. Dr Sven Brandau</i> |
| 15:45-16:00 | Closing remarks |