

The right advice

EMBL Heidelberg welcomed Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to the European Commission, in a visit to the lab on 9 January. Greeted by EMBL Director General Iain Mattaj and Director of International Relations Silke Schumacher, she met scientists working in a broad range of subject areas and at many different career levels, including EMBL group leaders Jan Korbel and John Briggs, representatives from EMBO and pre- and postdocs.

Glover, who is a molecular biologist by training, also gave insight into the challenges of providing scientific advice at the European level, where she engages in areas such as policy proposals, interpreting scientific evidence, strategic planning for emergencies, and updating policy makers on the latest scientific advances and novel technology developments.

Following a full day at the lab, she went away clearly fascinated by what she had seen, writing on Twitter: "Very impressed by the atmosphere, ethos and young scientists at EMBL in Heidelberg. It is molecular biology at its very best."



From left: Silke Schumacher, Iain Mattaj, Anne Glover, Maria Leptin (EMBO) and Didier Schmidt (EC)

"We need more people like Anne Glover who have a real knowledge of the challenges scientists face, but are also able to communicate key messages to politicians. The Chief Scientific Advisor was interested in how we communicate, to whom, and also wider issues affecting researchers, such as mobility and maternity"

– Jenny Hansson, postdoc,
Krijgsveld team

"Meeting someone involved at the political level provides important insights into how decisions are made and could even inspire some to pursue careers in science policy. It was fascinating to speak to Anne Glover about real challenges and opportunities we face as scientists – from our research projects to our next career steps"

– Gary Male, predoc,
Müller group

Top clinicians join as MMPU fellows



Joachim Kunz, Lorenz Lehmann and Stephan Singer: new MMPU fellows

Three top-level clinician scientists have been awarded career development fellowships within the framework of the Molecular Medicine Partnership Unit (MMPU), and will work to forge innovative and collaborative research with groups at EMBL.

The two-year fellowships, funded through the second round of the German Excellence Initiative – which heralded the creation of the Heidelberg Research Centre for Molecular Medicine – sees Joachim Kunz, Lorenz Lehmann and Stephan Singer work with groups not yet members of the MMPU (Beck, Furlong, and Korbel), intensifying and broadening interactions between scientists at EMBL and the Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg.

The fellows, who will all have taken up their new positions by 1 April, will focus on research in areas such as leukemia, cancer

signalling and heart disease. They will have access to EMBL's infrastructure and skill base, and bring with them significant knowledge in translational medicine.

"We are delighted to have been able to offer these exciting fellowships to three exceptional clinician scientists, who will doubtless further strengthen links between molecular research and medicine," says EMBL Associate Director Matthias Hentze, who co-heads the MMPU with the University of Heidelberg's Andreas Kulozik. "This is an exciting time for molecular medicine in Heidelberg and is further good news on top of a proposal for a Centre for Integrative Molecular Biology and Medicine called Bio-Square, based in Neuenheimer Feld, which would provide a core nucleus for collaborative research between EMBL and other major life science institutes in the city"

Open minds

EMBL Heidelberg will open its doors to the world on Saturday, 27 April, with an estimated 2000 visitors, from the Heidelberg area and beyond, expected to attend the *Tag der offenen Tür* (that's an Open Day to you and me). Staff will deliver a programme of lectures, exhibitions, hands-on experiments, a science café and tours.

EMBL's Office of Information and Public Affairs is responsible for organising and delivering an engaging and enjoyable day, and will rely on the support and help of staff to make it a successful event for EMBL and its visitors. More information will be available on the website soon.

