



## Welcome to the PhD-Bio Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter!  
In this space, we aim to keep you up to date with **what's happening** across the institutes in Freiburg (Biology Faculty, MPI-IE and Uniklinik), **alumni news**, **job opportunities** and so much more!

We invite contributions from everyone in our community and hope to create a strong network of Biology PhDs in Freiburg.

## Hello from our monthly meeting!



## Biology PhD-Reps Annual Election

In May we will be electing a new panel of representatives.  
Have you ever thought of becoming a Rep?

### Reasons to get involved:

- great opportunity to meet new people and network
- work on topics that are close to your heart
- improve your leadership skills
- gain experience for your CV
- it's fun!

Even if you don't wish to become an elected member, we still welcome you to join us at the election seminar to see what we've been up to, share your thoughts and importantly,

**vote for the 2021/22 Representatives!**

Details for the online seminar and election will be sent by email soon, so watch your inbox.

Any questions? Feel free to email us, or join our monthly meeting for more info!

Next meeting: 4th May, 5.30pm (Zoom)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Quiz night - online

Join us for the second PhD Reps Pub Quiz  
Meet new people! Attractive prizes for the winning teams!

Friday 30th April, from 7pm onwards

Online. Register [here](#)

### Upcoming Seminars

The next **KTU** Lunch Sessions (online, English)

-Thur 15th April 13.30: **Do I have the right skills to become entrepreneur?**

-Thurs 20th May 13.30: **Deep dive into fundraising**

From SGBM: the first summer school on **Transcription, Epigenetics and early Development (TED course)** July 12-23, 2021. Limited places. [More info](#)

### Pint of Science

Instead of your favourite bar, this year's Pint of Science will be held online.

From May 17-19th join local Freiburg scientists as they explain their research to a general audience.

More info and links to talks [here](#)



### Events calendar

If you know of interesting seminars/workshops etc that are open to PhDs, we would like to include them in our newsletter. Let us know via email: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

## Alumni News: where are they now?



This issue we feature

**Dr Annik Jakob** Product Manager

at local start up company

**Opto Biolabs**

### Tell us a bit about what you were studying during your PhD.

I studied Biophysics and did my PhD thesis in the research group 'Molecular Genetics of Prokaryotes' lead by Prof Annegret Wilde here at Uni Freiburg. During this time, I investigated the molecular mechanisms of cyanobacterial phototaxis and the impact of cellular micro-optical properties on motility.

### What was your experience with the job market during/after your PhD?

I started applying for several positions half a year before the end of my contract. To be honest, I also applied for one or two positions that I did not find interesting at all in order to gain more experience in job interviews. At first glance, the job market seems to shun recent doctoral graduates and Covid certainly has worsened the situation. However, you should never forget that job advertisements describe an ideal and can sometimes be a little unrealistic. You should not be deterred too quickly if you do not meet every single requirement.

### Where are you now and what do you do?

I joined the local biotech startup Opto Biolabs, a spin-off from the University of Freiburg. We develop and sell illumination devices for optogenetic research. As junior Product Manager, it is crucial for me to understand customer needs in order to improve our products. In this position, I definitely benefit from my previous experience with bacterial photoreceptors and photoswitches, as well as my experience with self-made illumination devices for phototaxis research. Other aspects of the job were completely new territory for me. Most of the time, my learning-by-doing mentality helps me and, of course, the discussions with my colleagues.

### What message would you like to give to new or current PhD students at the faculty?

Decide early whether you want to go into industry or stay in academia and start networking accordingly during your PhD career. It sounds daunting, but it can really make a difference. If possible, you can also try to find a mentor who can help you with questions about starting a career.

### Alumni news

Are you going to graduate soon or know someone who has? We would like to profile recent PhD graduates to inspire and encourage all those who are still in the process of obtaining their PhD. Contact us to see how you can be involved!

## Job opportunities

The research group of Prof Warscheid at the Institute for Biology III is looking for a Postdoc in Structural and Quantitative Proteomics.

[More info](#)

The Institute for Prevention and Cancer Epidemiology at the University Medical Center in Freiburg is looking to recruit a Postdoc in Epigenetics.

[More info](#)

The post of Prof di Ventura is looking for 2 Post Docs in Biological Signalling at the Institute of Biology II/III.

[More info](#)

The Institute for Biology III searches for a Research Assistant / Lab Manager Position in the research group of Prof Lillemeier. [More info](#)

The research group of Prof Grimbacher at the Center for Chronic Immunodeficiency (CCI) is looking for a Researcher in Genetic analysis of primary immunodeficiencies.

[More info](#)

Motivated HiWi wanted for the support of the GAA, up to 60h/month for 12 months, German and English skills required.

[More info](#)

### Job opportunities

Do you have a position to advertise or know of something that could be interesting for Biology PhDs? Let us know via email: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

### COVID-19 updates

Find news and info regarding the Uni [here](#) and for more info about Germany in general (from the RKI) [here](#)

Produced by the Biology PhD Reps  
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Thanks for reading!