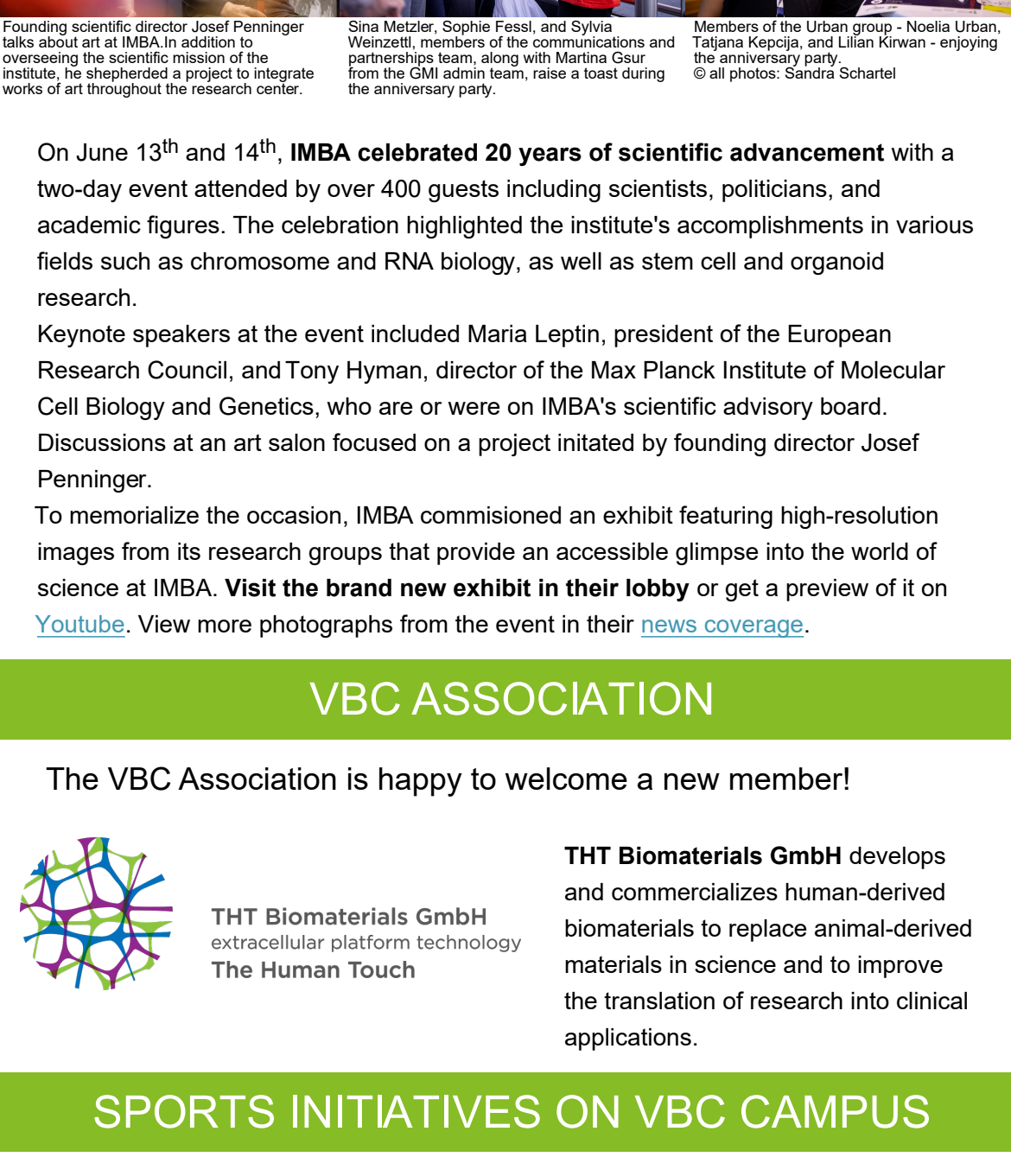


VBC NEWS

20 YEARS OF RESEARCH – MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE



Merisa Kries, IMBA's business director, and Jürgen Knoblich, scientific director, commemorate IMBA's 20th anniversary as they cut a celebratory cake.

On June 13, Merisa Kries, Jürgen Knoblich, Vienna Mayor Michael Ludwig, and ÖAW's president Heinz Faldner join prominent figures at IMBA's 20th anniversary.

At the scientific symposium on June 14, Maria Leptin, long-time member of the SAB and President of the ERC, highlighted the importance and value of basic research.

Founding scientific director Josef Penninger talks about art at IMBA. In addition to his research, he is committed to the scientific mission to integrate works of art throughout the research center.

Sina Metzler, Sophie Feszl, and Shiva Weizsäcker, members of the communications and outreach team, along with Martina Uslar, raise a toast during the anniversary party.

Members of the Urban group – Noella Urban, Tatjana Kocovic, and Lilian Kirwan – enjoying the anniversary party. All photos: Sandra Schwaner

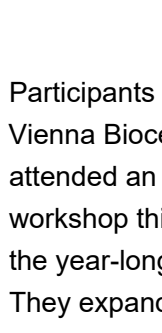
On June 13th and 14th, IMBA celebrated 20 years of scientific advancement with a two-day event attended by over 400 guests including scientists, politicians, and academic figures. The celebration highlighted the institute's accomplishments in various fields such as chromosome and RNA biology, as well as stem cell and organoid research.

Keynote speakers at the event included Maria Leptin, president of the European Research Council, and Tony Hyman, director of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, who are or were on IMBA's scientific advisory board. Discussions at an art salon focused on a project initiated by founding director Josef Penninger.

To memorialize the occasion, IMBA commissioned an exhibit featuring high-resolution images from its research groups that provide an accessible glimpse into the world of science at IMBA. Visit the brand new exhibit in their lobby or get a preview of it on [YouTube](#). View more photographs from the event in their [news coverage](#).

VBC ASSOCIATION

The VBC Association is happy to welcome a new member!



THT Biomaterials GmbH
extracellular platform technology
The Human Touch

THT Biomaterials GmbH develops and commercializes human-derived biomaterials to replace and improve derived materials in science and to improve the translation of research into clinical applications.

SPORTS INITIATIVES ON VBC CAMPUS

VBC Sports is a campus-wide sports initiative to connect colleagues through their interest and passion for sports. All employees of VBC members have access to a wide range of sports activities through VBC sports.

To find out more, visit sports.vbc.ac.at and login via your institute. Employees at UBB follow these instructions and employees at VBC companies follow these instructions to register first with their work email address. Access to VBC Sports will be granted after successful approval of the registration.

Participation in VBC Sports activities is generously subsidized through membership fees of VBC association members. Thus, participation in most sports activities is free; however, some courses require partial or full coverage of the costs by the participants.



VBC Hiking Club

Join the VBC Hiking Club to enjoy hiking together with other colleagues from the VBC! There will be hikes in and outside Vienna. The hikes will start from sites reachable by public transport. If you are interested, please check the [VBC Sports website](#) or contact [Helena](#).

VBC SCIENTIFIC TRAINING

Annual Vienna BioCenter PhD program student retreat 2023



The annual Vienna BioCenter PhD program student retreat took place at the Jufa Hotel Vulkanland in Gnas, Styria. Around 120 students took part in the event which ran from 10-12 May. 40 PhD students were selected to give flash talks to their colleagues, and this was followed by a poster session in which all students explained their projects. There was also a workshop on Well Being in Academia led by Desirée Dickerson as well as guest speakers, Nikki Popper (TU Vienna) and Tecumseh Fitch (University of Vienna).

Vienna BioCenter Leadership Program

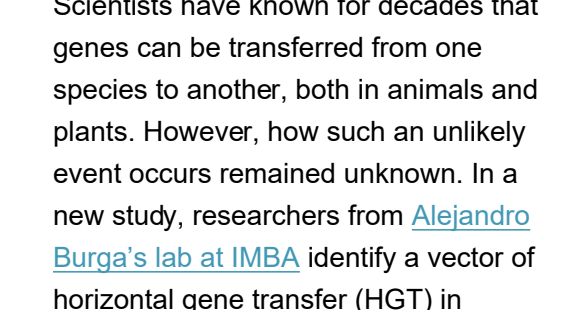
Participants in the inaugural cohort of the Vienna BioCenter Leadership program attended an effective communication workshop this month as part of Base 2 of the year-long programme.

They expanded on topics taught during the March retreat and had the opportunity to practice critical communication skills in groups. Conversations among participants were continued at the monthly meet-up, enhancing the peer-mentoring.



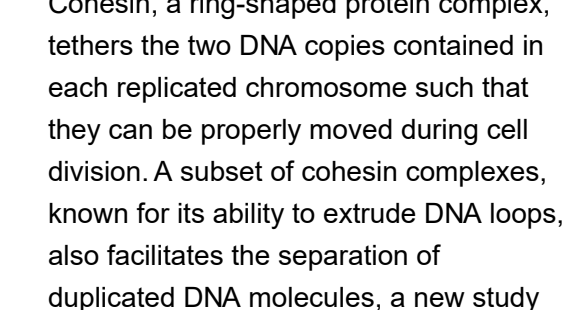
RESEARCH INSTITUTES' NEWS

CeMESS



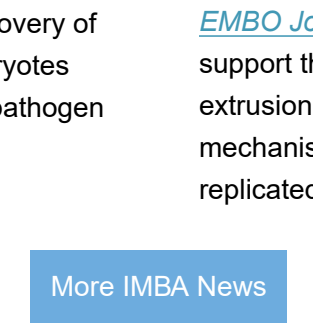
Barbara Bayer wins coveted FWF START Award

The Austrian Science Fund FWF announced this year's START award winners in June. Environmental microbiologist [Barbara Bayer](#) was one of only eight scientists to receive the coveted prize. A postdoc at DOME, Bayer will use her generous research budget to apply innovative research methodologies to explore how methane is emitted from our lakes and oceans.



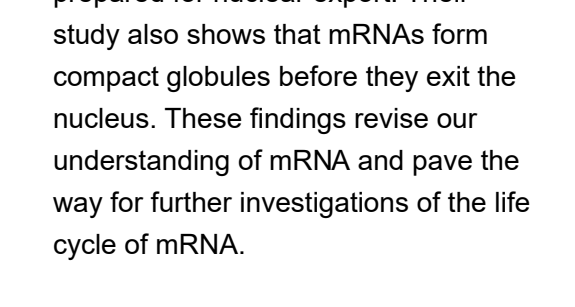
Anouk Willemssen appointed Assistant Professor

[Anouk Willemssen](#) was promoted to the position of Assistant Professor, and will start a new ERC-funded research group at DOME. Willemssen's research focuses on the genomic evolution of giant viruses. She joined CeMESS as a postdoc in 2020 with a Marie Curie Fellowship, and together with group leader [Mathias Horn](#), has been making waves ever since.



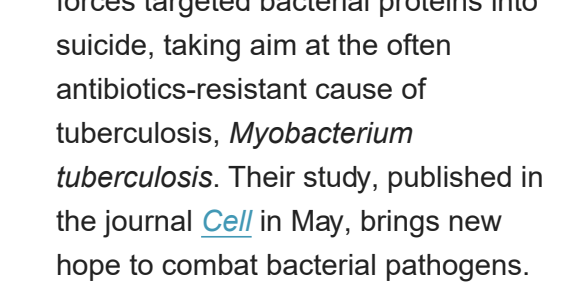
[More CeMESS news](#)

FACULTY OF LIFE SCIENCES @ UBB



Upcoming Research Cruise to the Pacific Ocean funded by the Schmidt Ocean Institute

A research cruise lead by [Monika Bright](#) of the Department of Functional and Evolutionary Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences will take place on the new RV Falkor (too) in summer 2023. The team will sail from Central America to the Pacific Fire Ring to study all benthic lifeforms.



Ulrich Technau elected member of the Leopoldina

[Ulrich Technau](#) (Department of Neurosciences and Developmental Biology) has been elected to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Members of the Leopoldina are recognized experts in their field and are appointed for life. Currently, researchers from more than 30 countries worldwide are represented, covering almost all scientific disciplines.



[More Faculty of Life Sciences news](#)

GMI



Signaling molecules that shape plant growth uncovered

RHO GTPases, a group of conserved signaling molecules, define when growth occurs on the surface of eukaryotic cells. The [Dolan group at GMI](#) discovered that "RHO GTPase of plants" – called ROP proteins for short – coordinate cell growth and division during tissue development and organ formation in land plants. The findings were published on in [Current Biology](#).



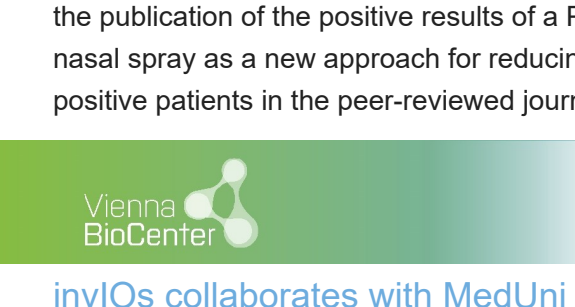
New paper on epigenetic memory

[Arabidopsis thaliana](#) shows striking natural variation in the epigenetic modification called gene-body methylation. In a new paper in [PLoS Genetics](#), researchers from the [Nordberg group at the GMI](#) sought to uncover what causes this variation. They show that a strong interplay between genetics and the environment may play an important role.



[More GMI news](#)

IMBA



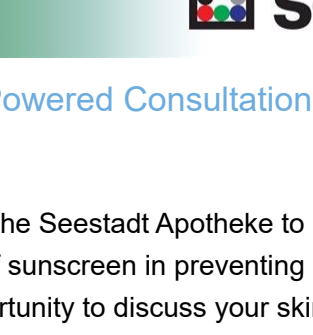
Virus-like transposons wage war on the species barrier

Scientists have known for decades that genes can be transferred from one species to another, both in animals and plants. However, how such an unlikely event occurs remained unknown. In a new study, researchers from [Alejandro Burgal's lab at IMBA](#) identify a vector of horizontal gene transfer (HGT) in worms. The findings, published in [Science](#), could lead to the discovery of further vectors of HGT in eukaryotes and might find applications in pathogen control.



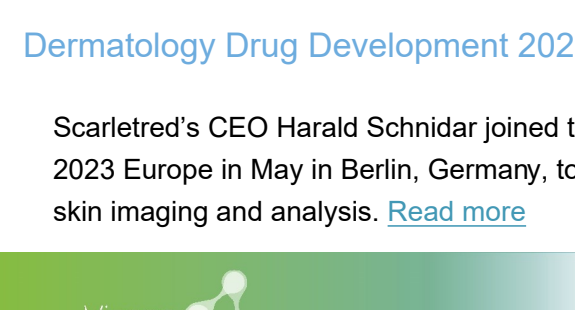
A cohesin-regulated tug-of-war inside chromosomes

Cohesin, a ring-shaped protein complex, tethers the two DNA copies contained in each replicated chromosome such that they can be properly moved during cell division. A subset of cohesin complexes, known for its ability to extrude DNA loops, also facilitates the separation of duplicated DNA molecules, a new study by the [Gutlich lab](#), published in [The EMBO Journal](#), shows. These findings support the notion that DNA loop extrusion is an evolutionarily conserved mechanism, promoting the segregation of replicated genomes into daughter cells.



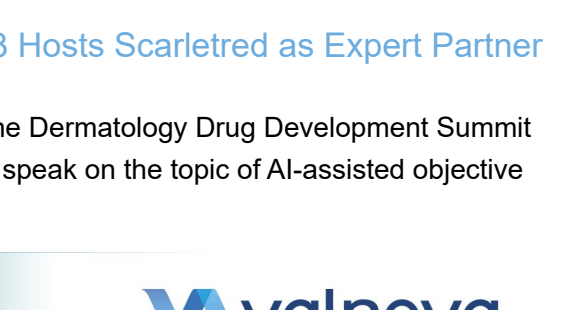
[More IMBA News](#)

IMP



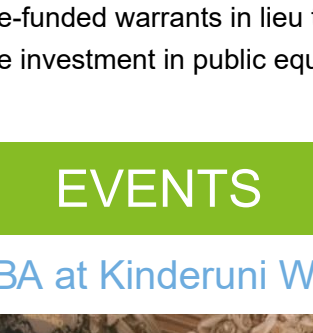
IMP scientists reshape our understanding of messenger RNA

In a study published in the journal [Nature](#) in April, scientists in the [lab of Clemens Plaschka](#) investigated how correct mRNAs are identified and prepared for nuclear export. Their study also shows that mRNAs form compact globules before they exit the nucleus. These findings revise our understanding of mRNA and pave the way for further investigations of the life cycle of mRNA.



Fighting tuberculosis with bacterial self-sabotage

Scientists of [Tim Clausen's lab at the IMP](#) and collaborators have harnessed the BACPROTAC technology to develop an antimicrobial agent that forces targeted bacterial proteins into suicide, taking aim at the often antibiotics-resistant cause of tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Their study, published in the journal [Cell](#) in May, brings new hope to combat bacterial pathogens.



[More IMP news](#)

MAX PERUTZ LABS



Stephanie Ellis awarded START grant

Max Perutz Labs group leader [Stephanie Ellis](#) has been awarded a START grant totaling € 1.05 million by the Austrian Science Fund FWF. Together with the Wittgenstein Award, the FWF START grant is one of the most prestigious and highly esteemed scientific awards in Austria. The funding will support Stephanie's work on cell competition over the next five years.



New study on cilium biogenesis genes

Cilia are hair-like projections on the surface of eukaryotic cells that perform essential sensory and motile functions. Defects in cilia are associated with a wide range of human diseases, collectively known as ciliopathies. In work published in [The EMBO Journal](#), the [lab of Alex Dammernann](#) has identified the core set of genes associated with cilium biogenesis and function, which includes an additional 152 previously uncharacterized genes. The authors' compendium of cilogenesis factors provides an invaluable inventory for the further investigation of this important cellular organelle.



[More Max Perutz Labs News](#)

VIENNA BIOCENTER CORE FACILITIES

VBCF ANNUAL REPORT 2022

We proudly present our Annual Report 2022! 2022 has been one of the most successful years in the history of VBCF and our employees have again exceeded our most optimistic expectations! We've never been more (financially) efficient, yet we haven't compromised on the scientific quality of our services. A big thanks and kudos to all of you that made 2022 such a success!



CORE4LIFE Challenge Projects Awards 2023



Andreas Sommer ([VBCF NGS](#)) and Karl Mechtler (Proteomics Tech Hub) have each been awarded a [CEL](#) Challenge Project. Andi and Karl's team will implement a cross-institutional validation of the spatial transcriptomics pipeline with Institut Pasteur. Karl and his team will develop a technique for profiling the proteome and transcriptome from the same single cell. Congrats to both of you!

Follow VBCF on



VBC COMPANY NEWS



Invited Presentation at EWMA Innovation Forum

Akribes Biomedical gave an invited presentation at the EWMA Innovation Forum, in Milan, Italy, May 04-05, 2023. EWMA is the European Wound Management Association, an umbrella or organization linking wound management associations across Europe and hosting the largest wound care conference in Europe.

CEBINA Announces Positive Results of a Phase 2 Clinical Study with COVID-19 patients and Azelastine Nasal Spray

CEBINA GmbH, Central European Biotech Incubator and Accelerator, has announced the publication of the positive results of a Phase 2 clinical trial that tested azelastine nasal spray as a new approach for reducing viral load in the nose of SARS-CoV-2 positive patients in the peer-reviewed journal [Scientific Reports](#).

InviOs collaborates with MedUni Innsbruck on novel CAR-Ts

inviOs is teaming up with the Medical University of Innsbruck on a new project to investigate the potential of an innovative CAR-T cell therapy approach to treat aggressive lung tumors. The collaboration is being supported by grant funding from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). The goal of the collaboration is to refine and enhance the efficacy of CAR-T cell therapies against solid tumors by discovering additional insights into tumorescape mechanisms, and hence to identify druggable factors that can overcome resistance to treatment.

Pre-clinical proof of concept in solid tumors for inviOs small molecule program

INV501 reached a significant milestone with strong preclinical proof of concept, demonstrating highly promising results against various solid tumor types. A potential first-in-class compound, INV501 has successfully demonstrated the capability to induce robust anti-tumor responses in vivo models including B16 melanoma and triple-negative breast cancer. Treatment with INV501 yields high response rates and significantly inhibits tumor growth, resulting in extended survival. Cure rates remain elevated even after the end of treatment, suggesting INV501 has the potential to establish immunological memory.

inviOs presents clinical data from APN401 trial in solid tumors

inviOs shared preclinical clinical data from a trial of its APN401 autologous cell therapy against advanced solid tumors. In the Phase Ib trial, two heavily pre-treated patients achieved prolonged stable disease for up to six months, underscoring APN401's potential as a novel cancer immunotherapy. The study also confirmed the feasibility of integrating inviOs's proprietary EPIC cell therapy platform into daily clinical practice.

Pipette calibration and service day

19 September 2023
10:00-18:00
LabShop, VBC, Erbe-Seder-Gasse 4/2, 1030 Vienna.

Scarletred Expands its AI-Powered Consultation Service at Seestadt Apotheke in Vienna

Scarletred has partnered with the Seestadt Apotheke to provide consultation services and promote the importance of sunscreen in preventing sun-induced skin damage. The consultations provide the opportunity to discuss your skin concerns, analyze it via the AI-based software Scarletred@Vision, and receive personalized recommendations for skincare products, including your individual Sun Protection Factor (SPF). [Read more](#)

Scarletred CEO Harald Schnidner in the B&C Group podcast about protection for innovations and patent rights

In the B&C Group's podcast Über:Mut, Scarletred's CEO Harald Schnidner discusses protection and potential of innovations in Austria with Mariana Kareпова, President of the Austrian Patent Office. [Read more](#)

Dermatology Drug Development 2023 Hosts Scarletred as Expert Partner

Scarletred's CEO Harald Schnidner joined the Dermatology Drug Development Summit 2023 Europe in May in Berlin, Germany, to speak on the topic of AI-assisted objective skin imaging and analysis. [Read more](#)

Valneva Announces Publication of its Chikungunya Vaccine Candidate Phase 3 Data in The Lancet

Valneva announced that the Company's pivotal Phase 3 data for its single-shot chikungunya vaccine candidate, VLA1553, have been published in [The Lancet](#), the world's leading peer-reviewed medical journal.

Valneva celebrated its first 10 years as a specialty vaccine company

A LinkedIn post and short video created in celebration of the company's 10 year anniversary are available [here](#).

X4 Pharmaceuticals announces positive phase 3 results for mavoxifaor

X4 Pharmaceuticals announced new data from its global, pivotal, 4WHM Phase 3 clinical trial of once-daily, oral mavoxifaor in individuals with WHIM syndrome. It showed a reduction in the rate, severity, and duration of infections in trial participants. [Read more](#)

X4 Pharmaceuticals Announces \$65 Million Private Placement Priced At-the-Market

X4 Pharmaceuticals announced that it has entered an aggregate of 42,784,203 shares of common stock (or pre-funded warrants in lieu thereof) to certain institutional accredited investors in a private investment in public equity (PIPE) financing. [Read more](#)

EVENTS

IMBA at Kinderuni Wien



WHAT: Workshop for children aged 10-12: "Alleskönner des Körpers? Zellen und ihre Aufgaben im Menschen"

WHEN: 13 July 2023, 10 am – 12 pm
WHERE: UZA II, Josef-Holabek-Platz 2, 1090 Wien

WHAT: Workshop for children aged 10-12: "Die Amazing Eltern, zahme Kinder: Warum haben Bananen keine Kerne? Wir entdecken, wie Wildfrüchte zu modernen Genussmitteln wurden und lernen Pflanzenzüchtung kennen"

WHEN: 20 July 2023, 10 am – 12 pm
WHERE: IMBA Dr. Bohr-Gasse 3, 1030 Wien

[Click here to register](#)

[Click here to register](#)

GMI goes Kinderuni



WHAT: Workshop for children aged 10-12: "Wie Eltern, zahme Kinder: Warum haben Bananen keine Kerne? Wir entdecken, wie Wildfrüchte zu modernen Genussmitteln wurden und lernen Pflanzenzüchtung kennen"

WHEN: 21 July 2023, 1:30 pm – 3 pm
WHERE: ÖAW Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien

[Click here to register](#)

Health Science Forum Vienna

Health Science Forum Vienna

EXCHANGING PERSPECTIVES – ADVANCING INNOVATION

The Health Science Forum Vienna is a joint initiative of the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA) and Merck. The lectures on current topics give a lot of space to creativity and allow real understanding. The goal is a lively forum that promotes networking and creates understanding for the different roles between researchers, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and health policy.

Next talk: Innovationen für individualisierte Medizin: Neue Wege in der Forschung und Medikamentenentwicklung (in German)
19. September 2023, from 5:30 pm, IMBA, Dr. Bohr-Gasse 3, 1030 Vienna

WORKING AT VBC

LOOKING FOR THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER?



CHECK OUT OPEN VACANCIES AT VBC

FOOD TRUCKS AT VBC

Five different food trucks expand the culinary offerings on VBC campus. You can choose from daily changing, varied options. Already found your favorite? Food trucks stop at VBC Campus daily (Mon to Thu from 11 am to 2 pm) in front of the Globe Wien (at the corner of Karl-Farkas- and Maria-Jacobi-Gasse). The Wrap Stars food truck stops in front of the Marxbox.

Follow Vienna BioCenter on

