Vienna BioCenter

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

VBC NEWS

SIX EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANTEES AT VIENNA BIOCENTER

Irma Querques (Max Perutz Labs).

Moritz Gaidt (IMP)

Diana Pinheiro (IMP)

Agnes Dellinger (Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research, University of Vienna)

Joris van der Veeken (IMP)

Christa Schleper (Department of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, University of Vienna)

The European Research Council (ERC) awarded no fewer than five starting Grants to Vienna BioCenter members: Moritz Gaidt (IMP), Diana Pinheiro (IMP), Joris van der Veeken (IMP), Irma Querques (Max Perutz Labs), and Agnes Dellinger from the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research (Life Science Faculty, University of Vienna). In addition, Microbiologist Christa Schleper from the Department of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (Life Science Faculty, University of Vienna) was awarded an ERC Proof of Concept Grant.

Congratulations to all on this great achievement. We are happy and proud to host such bright minds on our Campus!

Read more about the work of the six grantees:
Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP)

Max Perutz Labs
University of Vienna

VBC ASSOCIATION

Vienna BioCenter has a new Communication representative

Starting September, **Emilie Habetzeder** took over the role of Communication representative at Vienna BioCenter.

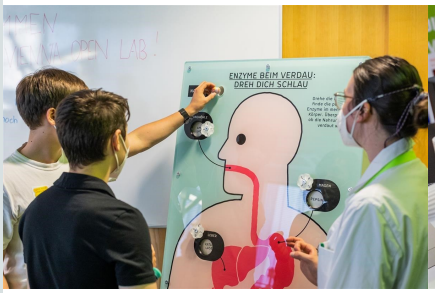
She succeeds Michaela Thoß, who after 5 years at Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities GmbH has accepted a new challenge as Senior Research Manager at Centre for Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science. Emilie looks back on 15 years of experience in communication and public relations. At Vienna BioCenter one of her tasks is to strengthen the collective communication of the Campus as an entity, including research institutions and companies alike.

LANGE NACHT DER FORSCHUNG 2024

Call to Action: Be part of "The Long Night of Research"

On May 24th 2024 Lange Nacht der Forschung (Long Night of Research, LNF) will once again take place in Vienna and Vienna BioCenter will be one of the venues offering stations.

Companies and Institutes are welcome to participate (free of charge), sharing their knowledge with the curious guests through experiments, hand-on participation and much more.LNF takes place every two years across Austria and last time we welcomed up to 600 guests, rendering it a great success.



If you want to learn more on how to participate, contact Emilie Habetzeder at office@viennabiocenter.org until the 5th of November.

Let's take this opportunity to share insights into the research and development happening on our Campus!

VBC SCIENTIFIC TRAINING

Vienna Area Post Doc Retreat

On 21-22 September, 50 postdocs from the Max Perutz Labs, IMP, IMBA, GMI, CeMM, and CSH (Complexity Science Hub Vienna) met in St. Pölten for a joint postdoc retreat.

Organized by the VBC postdoc representatives, this year's program featured flash talks, a decision-making workshop with Vicent Botella-Soler, and two career talks. Sarah Grosche (BI Austria) shared her experience transitioning to an Associate Principal Scientist at Boehringer Ingelheim and Daniele Soroldoni gave us great insight on what it means to be a Managing Director at Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities.

A big thanks to all the participants for the enthusiasm, our invited guests for the motivating talks, and the VBC scientific training team as well as our host institutions for the support. It was a great two days filled with networking and career development and we look forward to next year!

1st Doctoral Insights Symposium

DOCTORAL INSIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

SPOTLIGHT VIENNA

The first online Doctoral Insights symposium was held on 18 September 2023 in conjunction with ISTA, CeMM and two Vienna Doctoral Schools.

The symposium was conceived by Eva Schmid and Christopher Robinson from the VBC training unit with the aim of raising the awareness of the PhD opportunities within the Vienna area. The event was a major success with 240 students attending from numerous countries.

A general information session was held followed by keynote talks on the career opportunities that a PhD can offer and advice on wellbeing and resilience in academia. Break out sessions allowed the participants to visit each program to find out about application processes and other issues. It is hoped that through this advertising medium more Master students can be reached around the world; in the future other prestigious programs could be invited to join.

Vienna BioCenter PhD Program – Winter Call 2023 Open!

The Vienna BioCenter PhD Program Winter Call 2023 call is now open for applications. With almost 40 open positions, the PhD selection will bring back 3 days of in-person events at the end of January 2024, for the first time since the pandemic.

We look forward to welcome on campus many talented and international candidates!

Open positions
Apply here

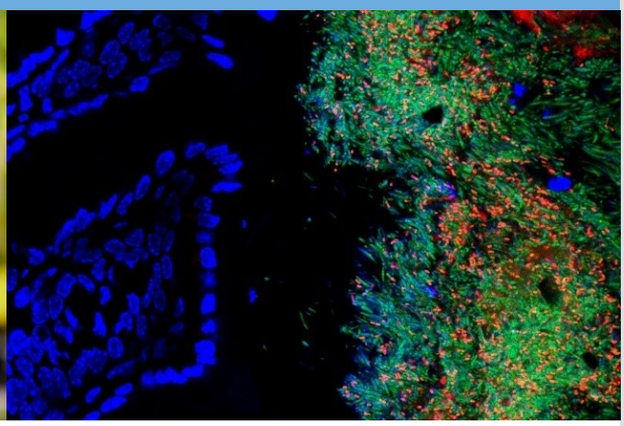
Vienna BioCenter Leadership Program

Over the course of the past months the 2023 VBC Leadership program cohort met online and in-person for a variety of modules on effective communication, setting priorities and good goals, as well as on motivation and solving conflicts.

The group additionally met monthly to practice the learned tools and exchange experiences. Next up is a module on resilience and stress before we wrap up with final retreat in December!

RESEARCH INSTITUTES' NEWS

CeMESS



AVINA grant for CeMESS group leader Shaul Pollak

CeMESS secures funding for advanced microbiome imaging

Swiss independent AVINA Stiftung has awarded one of its sought-after grants to Shaul Pollak, a group leader at the Division for Microbial Ecology at CeMESS.

The funding will support Pollak's research in developing machine learning methods to predict microbial community activity from genomic data.

Read more

equipment

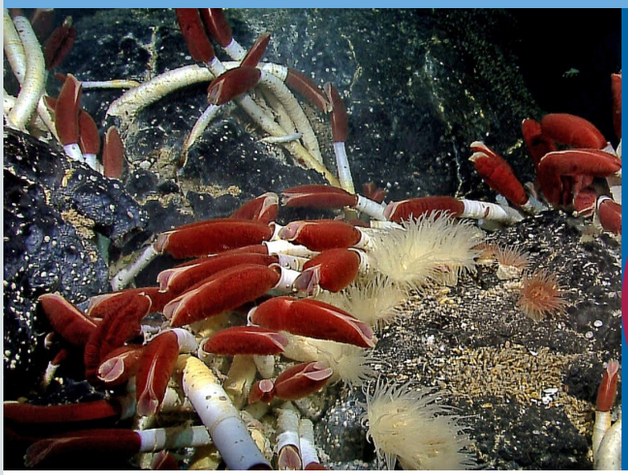
CeMESS proudly announces a significant milestone: securing approximately 2.1 million Euros in funding from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) Infrastructure Call 2022.

This generous support will facilitate the acquisition of two cutting-edge lab instruments that promise to revolutionize the Centre's microbiome imaging capabilities.

Read more

More CeMESS news

FACULTY OF LIFE SCIENCES @ UBB



New Ecosystem Underneath Hydrothermal Vents

A team led by Monika Bright from the Department of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology discovered a new ecosystem in volcanic cavities beneath hydrothermal vents. The deep-sea cave systems underneath volcanic crust are a diverse ecosystem inhabited by worms, snails, and chemosynthetic bacteria. Additionally, they found evidence of tubeworms traveling underneath the seafloor to create new hydrothermal communities.

Read more

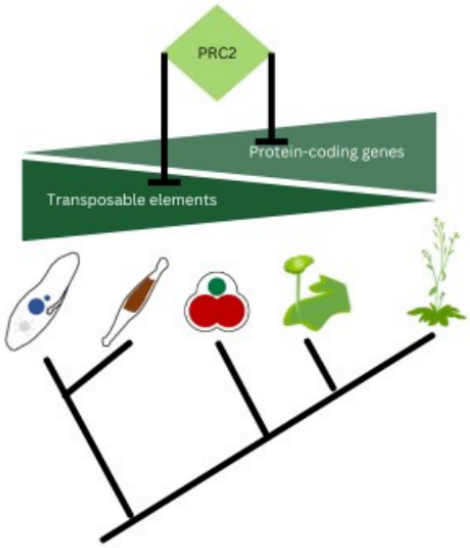
ERC Grants for Christa Schleper and Agnes Dellinger

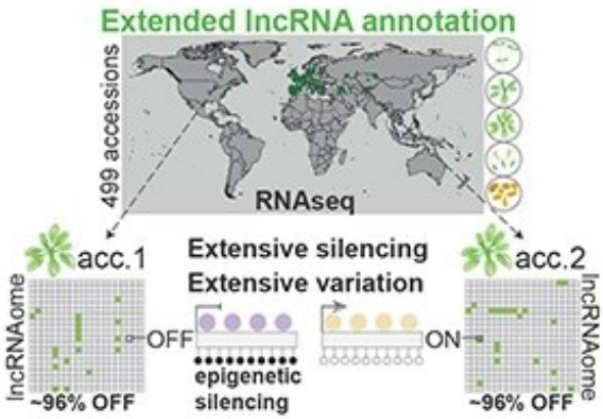
Agnes Dellinger from the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research secures an ERC Starting Grant for her research efforts on the evolution and function of floral diversity.
An ERC Proof of Concept Grant was awarded to Christa Schleper from the Department of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology to advance her ongoing work on the isolation of archaea which are particularly difficult to grow in the laboratory.

Read more

More Faculty of Life Sciences news

GMI





New origin story for PRC2

The key protein complex PRC2 was discovered decades ago to silence genes. New findings by Frederic Berger and his group, published in September in Current Biology, show that PRC2 represses transposons in a range of eukaryotes. Berger and his group demonstrate that over the course of evolution, PRC2's function shifted from repressing transposons to repressing protein-coding genes.

Read more

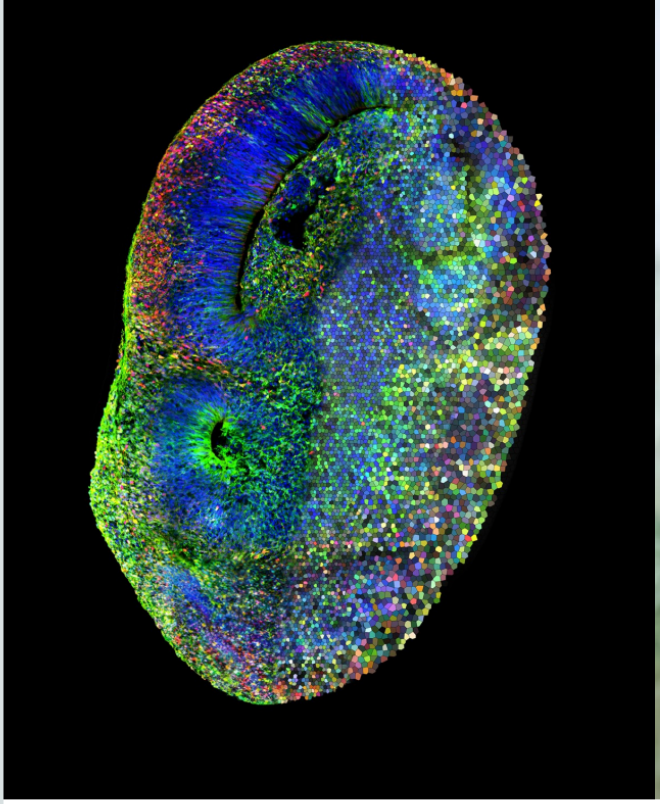
Unearthing long non-coding RNAs in plants

Long non-coding RNAs, a class of genes that do not encode proteins, exhibit greater variability and are subject to more silencing mechanisms than previously known, a study by the group of Magnus Nordborg shows. In Arabidopsis, some lncRNAs even resemble transposons and are controlled by transposon silencing mechanisms.

Read more

More GMI news

IMBA



Single-cell brain organoid screening identifies defects in autism

In a study published in the journal Nature in September, scientists in the lab of Juergen Knoblich developed a new system to test the effects of multiple mutations – in parallel and at single-cell level – within human brain organoids.

Using this system, the researchers identify vulnerable cell types and gene regulatory networks that underlie autism spectrum disorders.

Read more

Angelika Amon Award & ÖGMBT Life Science Research Award for Johanna Gassler

Johanna Gassler, an IMBA alumna, received a 2023 ÖGMBT Life Science Research Award for her publication “Zygotic genome activation by the totipotency pioneer factor Nr5a2”, for which crucial experiments were carried out during her PhD at IMBA.

Gassler will also receive an Angelika Amon Young Scientist Award. The Award honors graduate students from outside the US who embody Angelika Amon’s enthusiasm for discovery science. Congratulations!

More IMBA News

IMP

ERC Starting Grants: historic triple triumph for the IMP

The European Research Council (ERC) has chosen three IMP group leaders to receive funding under the EU's Horizon Programme.

Moritz Gaidt, Diana Pinheiro, and Joris van der Veeken, have all been awarded Starting Grants to fund their research efforts over the next five years. With this historic win, the 15-strong IMP faculty now sports 13 ERC grantees.

Read more

Anna Obenauf elected EMBO Member

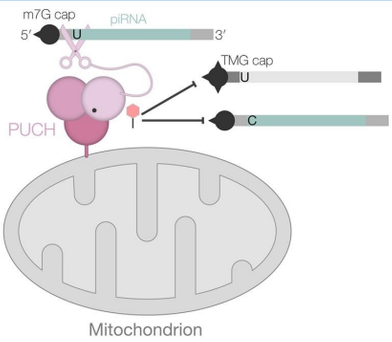
IMP Senior Group Leader Anna Obenauf is one of 60 newly elected members of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) for this year.

Although this distinction is highly selective, there are now eight of 15 group leaders at the IMP who are EMBO members – the entire senior faculty.

Read more

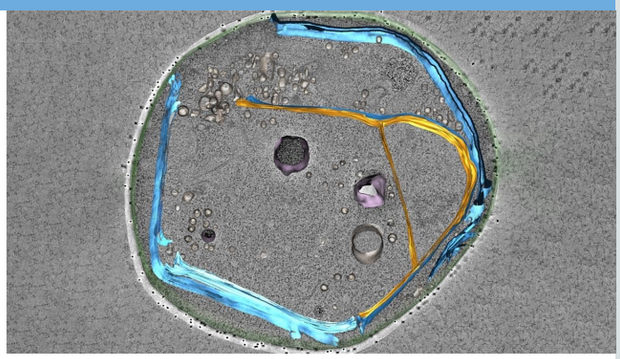
More IMP news

MAX PERUTZ LABS



Why TOFU is good for worms

Our innate immune system provides the first line of defense against invading pathogens. However, hyperactivation of these defenses can lead to inflammatory syndromes such as arthritis. Controlling the transcriptional programs that drive the innate immune response is therefore



Lipid Chemistry Empowers Nuclear Shape

The cell nucleus is surrounded by a spherical double membrane called the nuclear envelope. Scientists have long been intrigued by how this envelope can be elastic enough to accommodate shape changes that cells experience as they move through tissues, but also critical.

In work recently published in eLife, the Versteeg lab has identified a factor essential for the degradation of the transcription factor IRF1, a key driver of the innate immune response.

The work establishes a cellular mechanism by which cells maintain IRF1 levels in a so-called 'Goldilocks zone', thereby guarding against IRF1-driven inflammation. The study was a collaboration with the Zuber lab (IMP).

Read more

rigid enough to maintain nuclear integrity.

A study by Anete Romanauska and Alwin Köhler, published in Nature Cell Biology, uncovers that the chemistry of membrane lipids is key for this versatility. When this chemistry is perturbed, the nuclear membranes become stiff and prone to rupture, and nuclei lose their typical round shape and morph into a polyhedron.

Read more

More Max Perutz Labs News

VIENNA BIOCENTER CORE FACILITIES

FFG AUSTRIAN RESEARCH PROMOTION AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE CALL 2022

The Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities (VBCF) GmbH has received 2.5M Euro from the FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency Infrastructure Call 2022. The funding allows purchasing a picolitre handling robotic system and two of the most sensitive and fast mass spectrometers to date.

The project, led by Karl Mechtler and colleagues from the Proteomics Tech Hub at Vienna BioCenter, aims to establish the Austrian Single-Cell Proteomics Platform (AT-SCP), pushing single cell proteomics from its current developmental stage to a robust technique.

The AT-SCP will contribute to cutting-edge research in one of the "hottest" topics in life sciences in the upcoming decades.

Learn more here.

CORE4LIFE Annual Technology Forum

CORE FOR LIFE

Last month the CoreForLife Annual Technology Forum was held in Leuven, Belgium.

Between 27th and 28th of September Core facility colleagues from across Europe exchanged ideas and expertise while setting strategic goals for the next year.The Forum included facility visits, plenary sessions of cross-platform activities and presentations by the work groups.

Andreas Sommer, Head of Next Generation Sequencing Facility at Vienna BioCenter presented the CFL Challenge Project: “THE visium project”, (as outlined in the June Newsletter.)

Our thanks goes out to VIB for organizing the event and hosting us in Leuven.

Follow VBCF on

VBC COMPANY NEWS

Vienna BioCenter

biolution

Biolution offering office space

Prime office space at the Vienna BioCenter in St. Marx, offering a bright and airy environment, conveniently accessible by public transport. We have workstations for immediate lease, ideally suited for science-based start-ups and researchers looking to tap into the vibrant science community in our vicinity. Individuals seeking a conveniently located professional hub are also welcome!

Our office boasts fast and reliable internet, a well-appointed meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen, climate-controlled interiors, private restrooms, and an abundance of lush green plants. We offer flexible terms and conditions to cater to your needs.

Contact Vanessa Dorlijski on 01 786 9595 or office@biolution.net for more information or to schedule a visit today.

Vienna BioCenter

Akribes BIOMEDICAL

US Patent office grants two key patent applications to Akribes Biomedical

The US Patent office has granted two key patent applications to Akribes Biomedical: one relating to Akribes' personalized assay platform to screen for and characterize new therapeutics for chronic wounds, another one for a compound class which offers promise in precision medicine for chronic wounds.

Vienna BioCenter

LabConsulting.at
Our global network for your success

LabConsulting introduces Rupert Fallmann

We, LabConsulting, are pleased to introduce Mr. Rupert Fallmann, our expert in mechatronics and electronics, as your Lab Technician for service, maintenance and repair of your equipment.

If you anticipate any upcoming maintenance, repairs or servicing of your autoclaves, safety work benches, casy cell counters, or any other equipment in your laboratory, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Vienna BioCenter

myllia.

Luke Gilbert joins the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of Myllia Biotechnology

Myllia Biotechnology is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Luke Gilbert to its esteemed Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Dr. Gilbert brings a wealth of expertise in synthetic biology, functional genomics, and cancer biology to the Myllia team.

Dr. Gilbert's addition to the Scientific Advisory Board is anticipated to be a transformative milestone for Myllia. His profound expertise in single-cell CRISPR screens will undoubtedly contribute to the company's ongoing success.

Additionally, Dr. Gilbert is poised to play a pivotal role in promoting Myllia's presence in the United States, further solidifying the company's position as a global leader in CRISPR screening technologies.

Read more

invIOs starts additional clinical trial of novel cell therapy APN401 with FFG funding

invIOs has started patient recruitment for a Phase 1b trial of its novel autologous cell therapy, APN401, in patients with solid tumors, and has successfully secured grant funding from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

The PALINDROM study aims to determine the optimal dosage of APN401 in a multi-site setting for a subsequent Phase 2 study. PALINDROM leverages two GMP-compliant manufacturing sites in Vienna and Linz and will evaluate two dosage levels of APN401 infusions in up to 12 patients across four clinics.

The trial focuses on the treatment's tolerability, safety and clinical activity in patients with advanced and metastatic solid tumors for whom established standard therapies have either become ineffective or are not suitable. Patient recruitment has started, and invIOs aims to complete enrollment by the end of the year.

Read more

Proxygen named among "Fierce 15"

Proxygen announced that the company was named as one of Fierce Biotech's "Fierce 15". The annual special report features the most innovative and promising early-stage biotechnology companies worldwide.

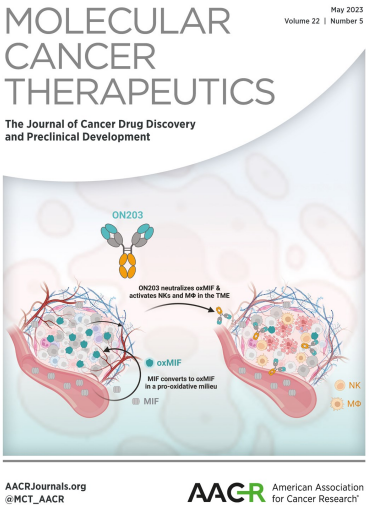
It is one of only two European companies and the only one without venture-backed equity investment making the list.

Read more

Vienna BioCenter

OncoOne Research & Development

Bridging the Gap: ON104 and ON203 - Targeting oxMIF in Inflammation and Cancer



OncoOne is delighted to announce the initiation of a significant series of publications exploring the role of oxidized macrophage migration inhibitory factor (oxMIF) in chronic inflammatory diseases and cancer.

The initial article, featured on the cover page of the May issue of Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, features ON203, an anti-oxMIF antibody that exhibits remarkable efficacy in cancer mouse xenograft models.

Read more on ON203

The second study, recently published in the European Journal of Pharmacology, introduces ON104, an antibody designed to neutralize oxMIF, and demonstrates its therapeutic effectiveness in a murine model of rheumatoid arthritis. These findings emphasize the importance of targeting oxMIF in both autoimmune diseases and cancer, offering promising avenues for advancing immunotherapy.

Read more on ON104

Vienna BioCenter

valneva

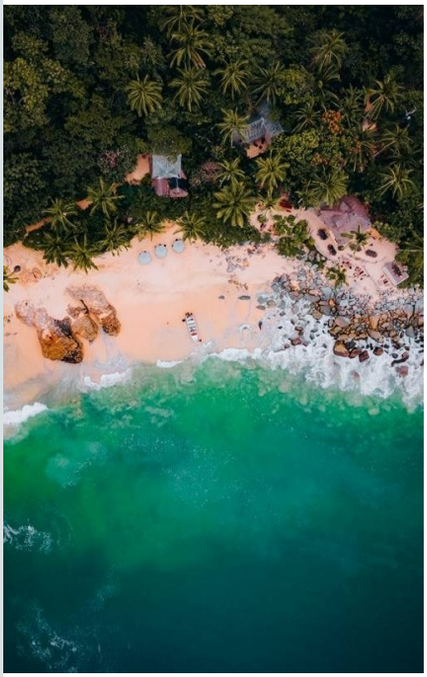
Valneva and Pfizer Report Positive Pediatric and Adolescent Phase 2 Booster Results for Lyme Disease Vaccine Candidate

Valneva SE and Pfizer Inc. announced positive pediatric and adolescent immunogenicity and safety data for their Lyme disease vaccine candidate, VLA15, when given as a booster.

These results from the VLA15-221 Phase 2 study showed a strong anamnestic antibody response for all serotypes in pediatric (5 to 11 years of age) and adolescent participants (12 to 17 years of age), as well as in adults (18 to 65 years of age), one month after administration of a booster dose (month 19).

Read more

Health Canada Accepts Valneva's Chikungunya Vaccine License Application for Review



Valneva SE announced that Health Canada has completed screening validation of the Company's regulatory application for marketing approval of its single-shot chikungunya vaccine candidate VLA1553 in persons aged 18 years and above, and has determined that the New Drug Submission (NDS) application is sufficiently complete to permit a substantive review.
Based on Health Canada's performance standard to process an NDS application, the Company believes the regulatory review could be completed by mid-2024.

Read more

Valneva Reports Positive Initial Phase 3 Safety Data in Adolescents for its Single-Shot Chikungunya Vaccine Candidate

Valneva SE reported positive initial Phase 3 safety data in adolescents for its single-dose chikungunya virus (CHIKV) vaccine candidate VLA1553. Immunogenicity data for the trial are expected in November 2023.

Funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and conducted in collaboration with Instituto Butantan, the VLA1553-321 adolescent trial is intended to support label extension in this age group following a potential initial regulatory approval in adults from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States (U.S).

The trial is also expected to support licensure of the vaccine in Brazil, which would be the first potential approval for use in endemic populations. The present safety analysis is also expected to enable regulatory submission to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) later this year.

Read more

EVENTS

50th Nobel Prize Anniversary Ethology Colloquium

In honour of the 50th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, awarded in 1973 to Konrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen and Karl von Frisch for their pioneering contributions to the field of Ethology, the Konrad Lorenz Research Center invites you to the "50th Nobel Prize Anniversary Ethology Colloquium".

This event serves as a tribute to the lasting impact of the pioneering work in ethology that Lorenz, Tinbergen and von Frisch accomplished during their lifetimes.

Date: December 12, 2023
Time: 15:00 - 19:30
Location: University of Vienna Biology Building (UBB) HS1

Click here for details

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-Gasse and Maria-Jacobi-Gasse). The Wrap Stars food truck stops in front of the Marxbox.

Monday

PASTAHELD

Tuesday

Wednesday

WRAP STARS

Gabriel
einfach gut essen...

Thursday

Vietnam deli
STREET FOOD
authentic & homemade ... so delicious

Follow Vienna BioCenter on