

Nano World Cancer Day 2017



2nd of February, 2017, Graz, Austria



The Austrian event “**NanoWorldCancerDay2017**” took place on the premises of the Center for Medical Research at Medical University Graz. The event was **organized by BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, supported by the Medical University Graz (MUG).**

Rector Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Hellmut Samonigg** (MUG) opened the press conference with his statement in which he expressed the importance of nanomedicine in and for Austria, especially in the treatment of cancer. In written statements three Austrian Federal Ministries (Federal Ministry of Health and Women, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, and Federal Ministry of Traffic, Innovation and Technology), acknowledged also the importance of nanotechnological development in the field of medical research and mentioned their willingness to support nanotechnological research and development, enabling improvements in patient treatment for Austrian society.

Former Federal Minister of Science and Technology and now member of the Austrian Parliament, NR-Abg. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. **Beatrix Karl**, also representing the Governor of the Province of Styria, LH Hermann Schützenhöfer, stated in her opening speech the importance of collaboration as it is shown by NanoMedicine-Austria

initiative likewise with the NanoWorldCancerDay2017-event and to collaborate enabling breakthroughs in science and research for the benefit of patients, thus for all of us.

The scientific part of the event was started by **Andreas Falk**, MSc, CEO of BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, member of the Executive Board of the European Technology Platform Nanomedicine (ETPN). The ETPN initiated the NanoWorldCancerDay 5 years ago, an event celebrated on the same day in 15 countries. As organiser of this event, which took place in Austria the third time, he presented an introductory lecture on "what is nanomedicine", the activities and success story of "NanoMedicine-Austria", which brings together the Austrian nanomedicine-community and the ETPN. Mag. **Elisabeth Andritsch** (MUG, department oncology) presented the needs of patients, emphasized that the personal treatment strongly depends on the emotional involvement of the treated person, her/his social environment and that science, research and medical disciplines can create hope for patients. To take this into account is the key to successful treatment, especially in the field of cancer treatment.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Michael Speicher** (MUG, Institute for human genetics) gave insights into the impact of nanotechnology towards monitoring the effects of therapies, to find out the reasons for resistance against therapy, and thus to be able to use the knowledge of making visible nanosized genetic information in the peripheral blood to do all these analysis from this sample. Hence, no painful sampling needed any more for this high-precise and personalized diagnosis. And these technologies on the nanosized level enable to select the most effective therapy to fight against cancer. He described the significant influence nanotechnology has in the medical sector and how important it is to have national resources dedicated to this important topic. Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Berthold Huppertz** (BioBank Graz), pointed out the importance of high quality samples, that are available in the BioBank for all kinds of (nano)medical studies, and that starting from its sampling, the documentation all along the samples life time is key for a successful BioBank. Final speaker of the event was Assoz.Prof. Dr. **Roland Malli** (NGFI Next Generation Fluorescence Imaging GmbH) presenting their nanotechnology based, novel genetically encoded fluorescent probes which enables diagnostic developments in the field of cancer screening. Thus, nanoenabled medical research could be successfully translated to the market by which the importance of

support (by installing dedicated funding) of nanomedical research in Austria was emphasized.

More than 50 participants from media (TV, radio), press (journalists), universities, politics and the broad public could realize by the presented content, that Austria is an important player in translational nanomedical research and can show already success stories how to pave the way from research to market (start-ups) in this challenging field. However, if there is no dedicated national funding for nanomedical research put in place, Austria will lose its high level position. Thus, it is a perfect time to re-start funding nanomedical research and development, also to be prepared for upcoming international initiatives like ESTHER.



Picture: from left to right: Berthold Huppertz, Michael Speicher, Roland Malli, Beatrix Karl, Elisabeth Andritsch, Hellmut Samonigg, Andreas Falk

BioNanoNet as organiser of this event is grateful to give special thanks to all speakers, and especially to Sylvia Gollner and Gerald Auer (both from Medical University Graz) for their support in organizing this successful event.

Further information about the event and NanoMedicine-Austria:

<https://www.bionanonet.at/national-technology-platforms/nanomedicine-austria>

