

# Bavarian Biotech News

January 2019



Dear readers,

we hope you had a good start into the new year, and again we want to briefly update you with News in the Bavarian Biotech-scene. It is still winter white outside our window, so the picture isn't fake at all.

So stay tuned and enjoy reading the new edition of our quarterly *Bavarian Biotech News*.

Your Bio<sup>M</sup>-Team



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## Venture Capital Kurma Partners launches operations in Munich

After a successful First Closing of Kurma's new Biofund III at the end of last year, the Venture Capital firm announced the launch of its Munich operations headed by the newly appointed partner Dr. Peter Neubeck. Venture Capital Kurma Partners sees great opportunities for early-stage biotech investments in Germany and especially Bavaria. In whole Europe 12-15 investments will be strived for.

[www.kurmapartners.com](http://www.kurmapartners.com)



## Reverse Merger conjured Immunic (Martinsried) to NASDAQ via share-exchange with Vital Therapies

Vital Therapies is expected to acquire all of the outstanding shares in Immunic in exchange for newly issued shares of Vital Therapies in an all-stock transaction. The company will focus on advancing Immunic's pipeline of novel and potentially transformative treatments for chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. Upon closing of the transaction, the company is expected to operate under the name **Immunic, Inc.** and trade on the NASDAQ. An investor syndicate has committed to invest 26 million € in the company at the closing of the transaction. The financing will help fund the further development of Immunic's pharmaceutical candidates.

[www.immunic-therapeutics.com](http://www.immunic-therapeutics.com)



## Mega Deal: SIRION Biotech and Denali Therapeutics Join Forces to Develop Gene Therapies for Diseases of the Central Nervous System



SIRION Biotech GmbH, a world leader in viral vector-based gene delivery technologies for gene & cell therapy, signed a license and collaboration agreement with Denali Therapeutics (NASDAQ: DNLI), a biopharmaceutical company. Denali Therapeutics is developing a broad portfolio of product candidates for neurodegenerative diseases. The aim is to develop adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors to enable therapeutics to cross the blood-brain barrier for clinical applications in neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, ALS and certain other diseases of the CNS. [www.sirion-biotech.com](http://www.sirion-biotech.com)

## 3.3 million € in Series-A for PreOmics' technology in MassSpec preparation

PreOmics, a Martinsried-based company that develops and produces innovative technologies for the pre-analytics of samples for mass spectrometry, raised 3.3 million € in series A funding. PreOmics is a 'm<sup>4</sup> awardee'. The round was led by Think.Health Ventures with participation from High-Tech Gründerfonds and business angels. The company intends to use the funds to continue internationalization of the business. [www.preomics.com](http://www.preomics.com)



PreOmics founders Nils Kulak and Garwin Pichler © PreOmics

## DigiMed Bayern

### DigiMed Bayern: Approaching the Medicine of the Future

**P4-medicine (predictive, preventive, personalized, participatory) is one of the world's most promising developments for improved, holistic and efficient health care. DigiMed Bayern's goal is to guide Bavaria into this medicine of the future with a lighthouse project.**

The lighthouse P4-medicine project **DigiMed Bayern** was launched at the end of 2018 with over 20 million € funding by the Bavarian State Ministry of Health and Care. DigiMed Bayern combines comprehensive datasets of patients diagnosed with atherosclerotic diseases, such as coronary heart disease and stroke, or with genetic risk factors. This dataset will be further enriched with state-of-the-art multi-dimensional molecular characterization (-omics technologies) of associated sample material. For the integrative analysis of the resulting "Big Data", an ethically and legally compliant, highly secure and sustainable IT infrastructure will be fundamentally designed and implemented. Finally, patients and persons at risk will benefit from advancements in disease risk prediction, targeted prevention, diagnosis and treatment.



**Dr. Jens Wiehler**  
Managing Director  
DigiMed Bayern  
[www.digimed-bayern.de](http://www.digimed-bayern.de)

### Join our next talk!

Thursday, January 31, 2019, 5:00-6:00 pm

**DigiMed Bayern Public Seminar: [Catalan open innovation hub on ICT-supported integrated care services for chronic patients](#) Speaker: [Prof. Josep Roca from Hospital Clinic de Barcelona](#).**

Location: Lecture Hall German Heart Center Munich, Lazarettstr. 36, 80636 Munich

## Learning to use Big Data

Helmholtz Zentrum München, the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics (IPP) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) as well as the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Ludwig Maximilian Universität München (LMU) have founded the new **graduate school for Data Science** in Munich.

Over the next six years, the new graduate school will receive a total of 12 million € in funding. With the Leibniz Supercomputing Center (LRZ) and the Max Planck Computing & Data Facility (MPCDF), two major computing and data centers in the Munich region are also involved.



[www.mu-ds.de](http://www.mu-ds.de)

## SuperMUC-NG: superpower for Big Data

In October 2018 the new next-generation calculator "SuperMUC-NG" - successor of the supercomputer "SuperMUC" - has become operational at Leibniz Supercomputing center in Garching near Munich. With a striking calculation power of 26.7 PFlop/s (ca. 26.7 billiards of operations per second), SuperMUC-NG ranks among the fastest computers in the world.

The extraordinary performance of this machine will empower users to exploit the "Big Data" potential, thus promoting scientific progress in many fields, such as personalized medicine.

The federal government of Germany and the free state of Bavaria equally share the overall costs of the project, which amount to 96 million €.

[www.lrz.de/english](http://www.lrz.de/english)



SuperMUC-NG, Foto: Veronika Hohenegger, LRZ

We guide BioEntrepreneurs from idea to success!



[www.bio-m.org/en/for-start-ups](http://www.bio-m.org/en/for-start-ups)



**m<sup>4</sup> Award**  
create the future of medicine

The Bavarian pre-seed grant program m<sup>4</sup> Award addresses academic research projects with spin-off potential in the area of medical biotechnology.

**Academic research groups from Bavaria** can apply for project funding of up to 500,000 € for two years. Find more information about the award online: [www.m4-award.org](http://www.m4-award.org)



**Bio Angels**  
invest in Bavarian biotech!

We introduce private investors to selected, innovative start-up projects at an early stage.

## Join the event!

accelerating biomedical innovation

**Bio<sup>M</sup>**

**BioEntrepreneurship Summit 2019**  
create the future of medicine

Munich, October 7 - 8, 2019

[www.bioentrepreneurshipsummit.org](http://www.bioentrepreneurshipsummit.org)

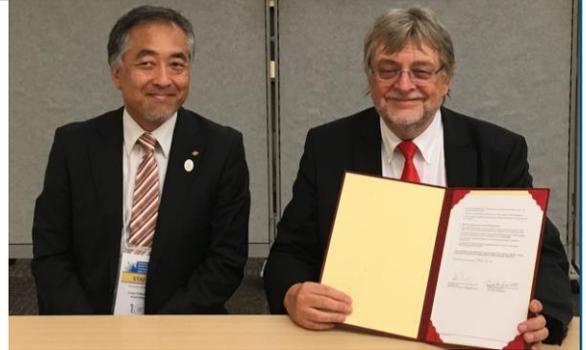
Meet all stakeholders of the bioentrepreneurial and health tech ecosystem

- panel discussions
- workshops and lectures
- pre-seed and start-up showcases
- m<sup>4</sup> Award ceremony

## Bavarian and European companies on Japan mission with Bio<sup>M</sup>

In 2018, Bio<sup>M</sup> accompanied two groups of entrepreneurs to Japan. The program included the EU-Japan BioPharma Partnering Conference in Osaka on 9 October, followed by BioJapan in Yokohama on 10 to 12 October. An important part of the mission was the official extension of the cooperation agreement between Bio<sup>M</sup> and Osaka Bio Headquarters until 2022. Together, the cooperation partners want to further promote and strengthen the regions of Bavaria and Kansai (Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto) in the field of biotechnology and life sciences, and increase business opportunities.

[Read more...](#)



Prof. Horst Domdey, Managing Director Bio<sup>M</sup>, with Dr. Kazuhide Nomura, Associate Director Northern Osaka Bio Medical Cluster, at the signing of the cooperation agreement's extension.

## Enter the Japanese or Korean life science market successfully!

**Start.Smart.Global** is a training project dedicated to start-ups and SMEs, which want to explore market opportunities in Japan or South Korea and develop a market entry plan for those countries.



### Start.Smart.Global

[www.bio-m.org/start.smart.global](http://www.bio-m.org/start.smart.global)

#### Financial support

Each participating SME will receive a maximum of 2500 € towards travel costs to participate in an on-site training in Paris or Munich and in a roadshow to Japan or Korea. All e-learning, training and coaching units are provided free of charge.

#### Submission of Application

Applications are to be submitted on the EIT Health online platform Optimy before **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**,



[Application link](#)

## Gateway Agreement between bioXclusters and Korea



A Gateway Agreement between Incheon Free Economic Zone, Incheon Business Information Techno Park (Korea) and bioXclusters was signed to offer European life science companies expert advice, market information and initial support for the South Korean market as well as assistance in finding cooperation partners.



## Save the Date! 4-5 Apr., Athens

### CEBR Annual Conference

CEBR is a membership-driven network of life science clusters and regional ecosystems across Europe, representing over 40 members. The Annual Meeting is a valuable opportunity to meet and exchange best practice.

[www.cebr.net](http://www.cebr.net)



Interested non-members are welcome!

## Innovation and Entrepreneur Center Würzburg

The IGZ provides technology-oriented business start-ups with laboratory and office space at attractive conditions. In addition to the infrastructure, training and start-up consulting are offered as well as networking possibilities.



**Dr. Gerhard Frank**  
Project Manager



**Dr. Jennifer Gehring**  
Project Manager



[www.igz.wuerzburg.de](http://www.igz.wuerzburg.de)



## German Biotechnology Days 2019 in Würzburg

The “German Biotech Days” is an annual 2-day event which represents a leading networking platform where all stakeholders active in the German biotechnology sector exchange their views and experience. At the conference a wide range of biotechnology topics will be discussed in different formats (seminars, workshops, and panel discussions). Selected sessions of the program will be simultaneously translated in English. More than 800 attendees are expected.



[www.biotechnologietage.de/en/](http://www.biotechnologietage.de/en/)

## Company Spotlight: GILYOS

GILYOS is a research-oriented, highly specialized contract service partner in the field of pharmaceutical freeze-drying. Services include, but are not limited to, formulation development for pharmaceuticals (protein, peptide), freeze-drying cycle development, optimization of processes including Quality-by-Design and scale-up from laboratory to production. GILYOS offers a variety of analytical methods to fully characterize drug formulations (liquid and solid state), with special focus on the examination of the physicochemical properties of materials.

[www.gilyos.com](http://www.gilyos.com)



## 3R Science Prize for Dr. Appelt-Menzel

The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) awards with the 3R Science Prize scientific ideas whereby animal testing can be Replaced, Reduced and Refined. The model proposed by Dr. Antje Appelt-Menzel (Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine department, University Hospital of Würzburg) uses induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) to recapitulate *in vitro* the physiological behavior of the blood-brain barrier. According to EPAA committee, this model has a great potential to substitute animal experiments for substances and chemicals testing.



Dr. Antje Appelt-Menzel

All Company Profiles of the Bavarian Biotech Cluster in our annual report:



## Lophius Biosciences GmbH



Lophius Biosciences is focusing on the development and marketing of innovative immune diagnostic systems to improve therapy control and personalized treatment of patients in the area of transplantation, infectious and autoimmune diseases. The company's developments are based on its expertise in cell-mediated immunity as well as on its proprietary T-activation® and Reverse T Cell Technology platforms. With its T-Track® CMV leading product, Lophius offers a highly sensitive, reliable and standardized CE-marked in vitro diagnostic solution to measure the functionality of CMV-specific cell-mediated immunity. T-Track® CMV assists clinicians in the risk stratification of CMV disease in immunocompromised patients, toward an improved and individualized patient management. [www.lophius.com](http://www.lophius.com)

## NanoTemper Technologies GmbH



NanoTemper Technologies is a high-tech company providing solutions for biomolecular analytics. The company develops, produces and markets innovative technologies and instrumentation used by thousands of scientists across four continents. The deeply experienced and globally operating team of experts strongly focuses on the user's benefits by ensuring maximum efficiency for research in Pharmaceutical or Biotech industries as well as in an academic basic research setting. With headquarters in Munich, Germany, and subsidiaries in the UK, Poland, US, Brazil and India, the company is rapidly expanding worldwide. [www.nanotempertech.com](http://www.nanotempertech.com)

## GNA Biosolutions GmbH



GNA Biosolutions has developed a laser-based, optothermal system to provide the world's fastest DNA diagnostics. The technology is based on nanoparticles within the sample solution. These nanoparticles can be heated up with a laser, and they cool down immediately after irradiation. As a result, the heating and cooling ramps are a million times shorter than in conventional thermocyclers, leading to ultra-fast DNA amplification (Laser PCR®). The optical characteristics of the nanoparticles can also be utilized for a fluorescence-free detection (Nanostove®) that minimizes any upstream sample preparation. GNA's Pharos400 instrument will perform integrated Laser PCR® and Nanostove® read-out. The assay pipeline comprises tests for infectious diseases, with a focus on screening incoming patients for resistant micro-organisms directly during the admission. [www.gna-bio.com](http://www.gna-bio.com)

## Ithera Medical GmbH



iThera Medical develops and markets a novel in-vivo biomedical imaging technology, "MSOT" = multi-spectral opto-acoustic tomography. MSOT utilizes the photo-acoustic effect to visualize and quantify anatomical, functional and molecular information of living tissue. Today, MSOT allows the early and reliable validation of new substance efficacy in drug discovery (e.g., for oncology, neurology and cardiovascular problems). For the future, MSOT also promises to become a valuable tool for clinical diagnostics. [www.ithera-medical.com](http://www.ithera-medical.com)



[www.bio-m.org/database](http://www.bio-m.org/database)

## ... in Bavaria



## ... worldwide



## Save the Date 2020

**BIO-Europe 26** – 28 October 2020, Munich  
Europe's Largest Life Science Partnering Event to be held in Bavaria's capital!



Conferences, Workshops...

> 1300 participants  
last year



Company Database

> 350 Companies



Bio<sup>M</sup> Newsletter

> 6000 Subscribers



Job Market

> 1200

Job offers annually



Connecting Biotech in Bavaria

International Affairs

- Delegation Visits
- Trade Missions
- Global Conferences & Fairs



Mentoring Circle

> 60 Mentors



Facts & Figures  
Bavarian Biotech

Annual Report



> 100 Personal  
consulting Sessions  
with Founders p. a.



Special  
Services

- Partnerings
- Pharma Days



> 300

Investors  
within network



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