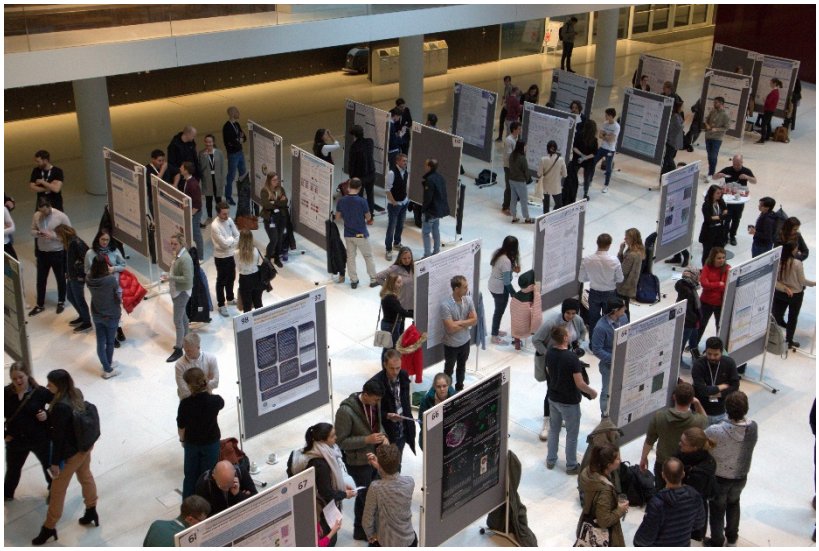
The 2023 Life Science PhD Meeting with new participant record!

The Mission of the Life Science PhD Meeting:

The Life Science PhD Meeting provides a platform for scientists from the MUI and LFU, from undergraduate students up to PIs, to share their science, knowledge, experience and critical thinking. Furthermore, this is the ideal platform to encourage younger students to present their research for the first time to train this important skill for international conferences.

The participants of the Life Science Meeting present excellent scientific work from numerous fields, which is only possible due to the huge variety of scientific interests from the many PhD-research programs represented at the meeting.

- MCBD
- CBD
- CMBI
- ARDRE
- HOROS
- SPIN
- CavX
- Clinical PhD program



Feedback from two participants

Marcel Tisch, PhD student at LFU

Every year, the PhD Life Science Meeting provides a great opportunity to network, stay up-to-date with current scientific research, and to explore exciting new collaborations.

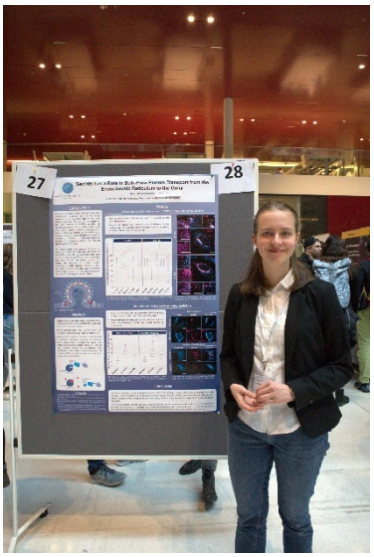
By bringing together passionate students from both the MUI and LFU, this meeting fosters interdisciplinary scientific exchange and strengthens the entire Innsbruck research community.

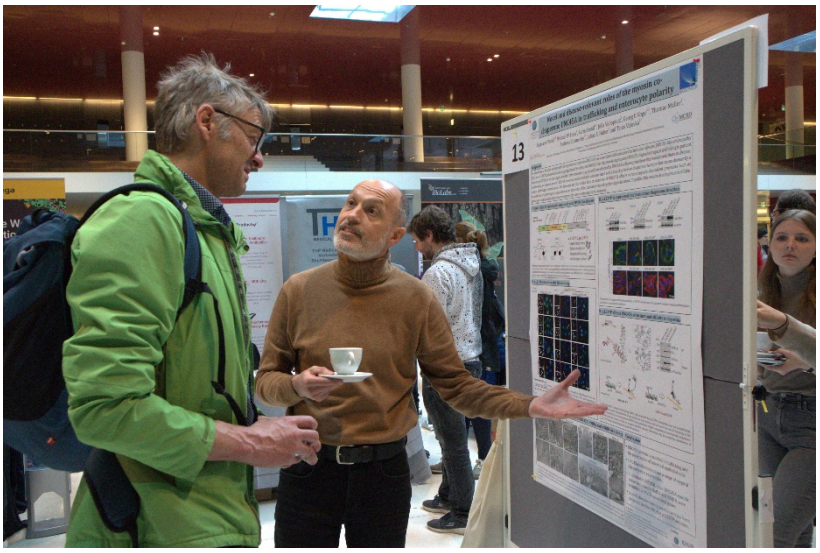
With an impressive lineup of more than 170 poster presentations and many amazing student talks, this year's meeting was an absolute blast and undoubtedly benefited everyone who attended!

This is the second year I was part of this event; last year as a Master and this year as a PhD Student. The atmosphere of scientific interest and exchange is the highlight of the whole meeting: three days in which the CCB turns into an incubator teeming with scientific enthusiasm. This allowed me to present and discuss my ideas and results in form of a poster and receive precious input from scientists, professors and peers. I had also the privilege of moderating a talk session: another challenging, but exciting experience! I look forward to the next meeting, hoping for a vibrant participation as this year's edition.

Ilaria Dorigatti, PhD student of the MUI

This year the Life Science Meeting was the largest so far with 173 posters, 20 short talks and 400 registrations.





4 invited speakers presented their research at the Life Science Meeting:

Karin Ortmayr

University of Vienna, Austria

"***How cellular metabolism is crucial for quiescence and regrowth of cancer cells***"

Tibor Harkany

Medical University of Vienna, Austria

"Molecular reconstruction of neuronal diversity in the hypothalamus"

Jennifer Rosowski

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

“Der Simulierte Mensch – a new scientific framework for interdisciplinary research in biomedicine“

Gerald Brandacher

John Hopkins Medicine, USA

“New Frontiers in Transplantation“

Report from the organizers:

“We try to choose thematic foci in such a way that as many research interests of both universities (LFU and MUI) as possible are represented in the life science area.

For example, we were able to cover a large area of interest of both universities (Neuroscience) with a workshop of the Human Brain Project Education Program on 'Introduction to High-Performance Computing' as well as by Prof. Harkany with his talk on 'Molecular reconstruction of neuronal diversity in the hypothalamus' and the 5 student short talks on Neuroscience.

In general, we can say that it is mainly about disease specific molecular biology. Here we could win a highly interesting talk on "How cellular metabolism is crucial for quiescence and regrowth of cancer cells" by Karin Otmayr.

Another special feature this year was the talk by **Prof. Brandacher** (he studied in Innsbruck) who spoke about new developments in transplantation medicine. With this talk, we could for the first time give more weight to the clinical side of the MUI.”

Beside the main organizers (Vincent Braun, Felix Eichin, Anna Schmitt) the following people (both MUI and LFU) are involved in the team:

Marina Schapfl, Ilaria Dorigatti, Xuechen Tang (LFU), Nargess Shahbazi (LFU), Anton Hörmann, Cristina Schöpf, Jiri Koutnik, Hussam Abd El Halim, Marion Lechable (LFU), Marcel Tisch (LFU), Lucas Hensen (LFU).

In addition, numerous prizes were awarded to excellent students for their work:

MCBD Best Paper Award:

First prize: Emmanuel Heilmann, PhD from the Institute of Virology:

"SARS-CoV-2 3CLpro mutations selected in a VSV-based system confer resistance to nirmatrelvir, ensitrelvir, and GC376", *Nat Commun* 2022.

Second prize: Daniel Nothdurfter, DI from the University Department of Pediatrics I:

"3D bioprinted, vascularized neuroblastoma tumor environment in fluidic chip devices for precision medicine drug testing", *Biofabrication* 2022

Second prize: Nico Wahl, PhD from the Joint Facility for Neuroscience:

“SATB2 organizes the 3D genome architecture of cognition in cortical neurons“, preprint in *BioRxiv* 2022.

The award winners were presented by the coordinator of the MCBD-program Prof. Patrizia Stoitzner and by the coordinator of the doc-funds CBD-program Prof. David Teis.

Nico Wahl, Daniel Nothdurfter, Emmanuel Heilmann, Patrizia Stoitzner, David Teis

Neuroscience Best Paper Award:

Nico Wahl, PhD from the Joint Facility for Neuroscience:

"SATB2 organizes the 3D genome architecture of cognition in cortical neurons", preprint in *BioRxiv* 2022.

Nico Wahl and Francesco Ferragutti

Best Poster Award on Thursday

Dhwani Korde, University Clinic for Psychiatry I, MUI: "Spreading of P301S aggregated tau investigated in organotypic mouse brain slice cultures"

Best Poster Award on Friday

Marcel Tisch, Genomics, Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, LFU: "Patient-derived stem cells to study the pathology of autism spectrum disorders related voltage-gated calcium channel gain-of-function mutations"

Best Talk on Thursday

Isabel Singer, Cell Biology, MUI : "Protein interactions and metabolic signalling at the lysosome"

Best Talk on Friday

Sinead Schwabl, Cell Biology, MUI: "The Dsc ubiquitin ligase complex mediates endosome and Golgi associated degradation (EGAD) of orphaned membrane proteins to maintain post ER organelle integrity"

Microscopy Award

Luis Enrique Sastre-Velasquez, PhD Student, Institute of Molecular Biology, LFU.

“Subcellular imaging of peroxisomes (cyan), mitochondria (magenta), vacuoles (green), cellular membrance and septa (white) in hyphae of the human pathogen Aspergillus fumigatus, by the integration of four inducible genes encoding fluorescent reportersin a single strain. Leica SP8”