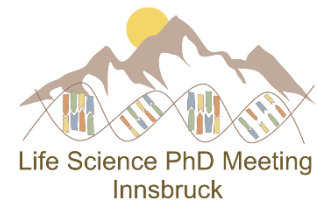


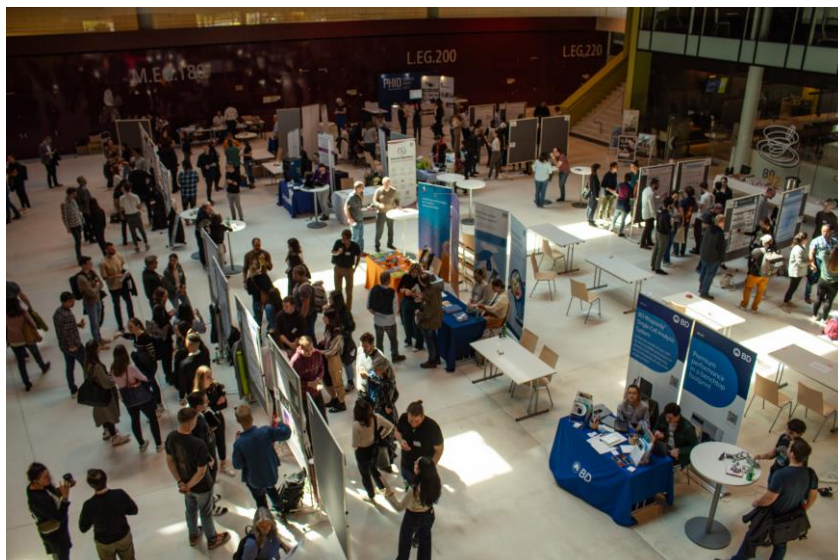
# The 2024 Life Science PhD Meeting: for PhD by PhD!



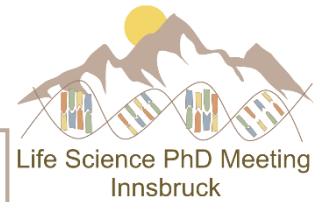
## The Mission of the Life Science PhD Meeting:

The Life Science PhD Meeting provides a platform for scientists from the MUI and LFU to share their science, knowledge, experience and critical thinking. This conference encourages young scientists to present their research work, connect with other PhD Students from various different research fields and improve their presentation skills for international conferences. Moreover, undergraduate students can discuss their projects with group leaders from numerous research areas and foster new collaborations which is only possible due to the huge variety of scientific topics covered in the PhD-research programs represented at the meeting:

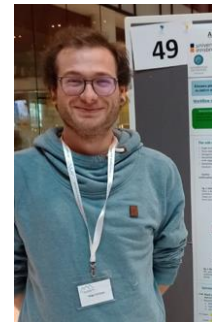
- MCB
- CBD
- ARDRE
- CONNECT
- HOROS
- SPIN
- CavX
- Clinical PhD program
- IIT
- IGDT
- Musculoskeletal Sciences
- Medical Psychology



## Feedback from three participants:



The Life Science PhD Meeting is a perfect opportunity to see what is going on in the life sciences in Innsbruck. Due to the separation of the two big universities in Innsbruck, it can be difficult to keep up with each and every area of research, but they are all covered at the meeting. I am always amazed by how many interesting research topics there are in the capital of the Alps. The meeting gives us participants the opportunity to meet and connect with other PhD students, which may lead to new interdisciplinary collaborations. Besides the networking part, the meeting is also a perfect training ground for young scientists to practice presenting posters or giving short talks in a more familiar environment before presenting at large international conferences. All in all, this year's Life Science PhD Meeting was a great success, with stimulating poster sessions, interesting short talks and - last but definitely not least - excellent international plenary speakers!



Helge Schoppe,  
PhD student at  
the LFU



Cristina Schöpf, PhD  
student at the MUI

The Life Science PhD Meeting 2024, marked my third year participating and organizing this esteemed event. This year, I found immense satisfaction in the convivial environment fostered throughout the meeting. Participants exhibited remarkable warmth and openness, facilitating productive exchanges among students and professors alike. The dynamic interactions between speakers and attendees further enhanced the educational value of the event, contributing to an enriching and rewarding experience overall.

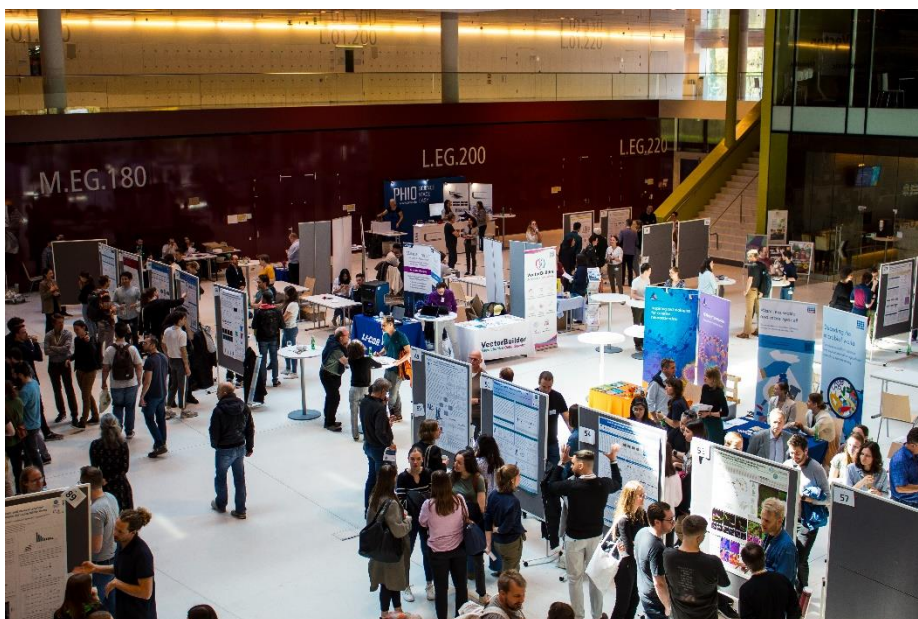
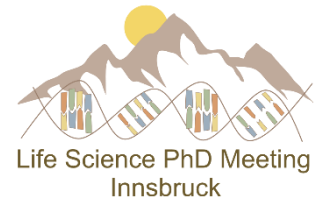
Each year, the life science PhD meeting offers an exceptional platform for discussing findings and ideas through a talk or poster format. The relaxed atmosphere of the meeting is encouraging for students of all levels to receive valuable insights from esteemed scientists, professors, and peers alike. The meeting is shared between Innsbruck's two universities, the LFU and the MUI, resulting in great possibilities for scientific exchange and networking, but also providing a wide array of topics to be explored.

I have been taking part in the life science PhD meeting since I was a master's student, and each year the meeting offers novel challenges and exciting possibilities. For me this year's meeting, as always, offered the unique opportunity to exchange experiences and methods and to get an overview about what Innsbruck's scientific community is up to.



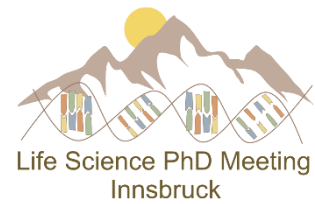
Isabel Singer,  
PhD student at  
the MUI

**This year the Life Science Meeting was the largest so far with a total of 444 participants and registrations, with 129 posters, 24 short talks and a team of dedicated judges.**





The 5 invited speakers shared their inspiring research at the Life Science Meeting:



***Frances Ashcroft***

Dep. Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

**“Metabolic regulation of insulin secretion in health and disease”**



***Rao Tata Nageswara***

Experimental Oncology and Hematology, Kantonsspital St.Gallen, Swiss Confederation

**“Targeting Metabolic Dependencies in Myeloid leukemias”**



***Rafael T.M. de Rosales***

School of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences, King's College London, United Kingdom

**“Imaging of Drug Delivery Nanomedicines and Cell-based Immunotherapies”**



***Anne Claire Conibear***

Institute of Applied Synthetic Chemistry, Faculty of Technical Chemistry, TU Wien, Austria

**“Chemical biology tools to understand protein posttranslational modifications in disordered proteins”**



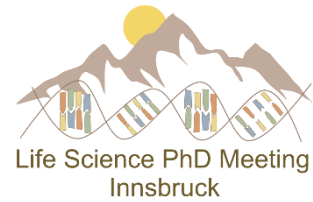
***Marlene Bartos***

Institute of Physiology, University of Freiburg, Germany

**“Inhibition shapes representation of space and context in the hippocampus”**

## Report from the organizers:

The idea of this year's Life Science PhD Meeting was to highlight the enormous variety of research fields of the scientists engaged in research at both MUI and LFU universities, as well as to try to bring to life a conference for PhD students by PhD students, where the exchange of ideas and networking is the focus.



It was exactly with this goal in mind that we invited five brilliant scientists to our meeting. Starting with Prof. Frances Ashcroft from Oxford University, who opened the meeting talking about health and disease and the metabolic regulation of insulin in a truly inspiring talk. Moving on to myeloid leukaemias and metabolic dependencies presented by Prof. Rao Tata Nageswara. The first day of the meeting concluded with a talk by Prof. Rafael T.M. de Rosales who spoke about drug delivery in nanomedicine and cell-based immunotherapies. During the second day we hosted as well two prestigious Prof. Anne Claire Conibear and Prof. Marlene Bartos, who spoke respectively about chemical biology as a tool for posttranslational modifications in disordered proteins and about shapes and space in the hippocampus.

Participating students were able via short talks or poster presentations format to share their projects and gather new ideas and discuss their work with other researchers. We really enjoyed the atmosphere of scientific enthusiasm during these sessions.

Beside us, main organizers, a collaborative effort from students and professors from both MUI and LFU played a pivotal role in the organization and were crucial for the organization machinery:

Denise Kummer (MUI), Andreas Aufschneider (MUI), Lydia Riepler (MUI), Giacomo Gariglio (MUI), Christina Schöpf (MUI), Hussam Abd El Halim (MUI), Francesco Costacurta (MUI), Francesca Silvagni (MUI), Isabel Singer (MUI), Clara Dosser (MUI), Taraneh Zavvar (MUI), Petronel Tuluc (LFU), Niloofar Nemati (MUI), Nargess Shahbazi (LFU), Helge Schöppe (LFU), Felix Eichin (LFU), Vincent Braun (LFU).

We are now slowly starting again with the organizer meetings for the next Life Science Meeting by collecting feedbacks, recruiting new people willing to help for the 2025 edition of the meeting and we are really looking forward to it!



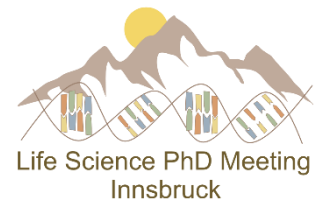
*Ilaria Dorigatti, Marina Schapfl, Johannes Wölk (from left to right).*

The ÖH PhD student's representatives: Johannes Wölk, Ilaria Dorigatti, Marina Schapfl

## During the Meeting, several prizes were awarded and highlighted the excellent work of the students!

### - MCBD Best Paper Award:

The two winners were awarded by the coordinators of the MCBD-program Prof. Patrizia Stoitzner and Prof. Matthias Erlacher.



**Maria Kompatscher**, PhD from the Institute of Genomics and RNomics, “Contribution of tRNA sequence and modifications to the decoding preferences of *E. coli* and *M. mycoides* tRNA<sup>GlyUCC</sup> for synonymous glycine codons”, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2024. (First prize ex aequo)

**Deborah Minzaghi**, PhD from the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology. “Excessive Production of Hydrogen Peroxide in Mitochondria Contributes to Atopic Dermatitis” *J Invest Dermatol*, 2023. (First prize ex aequo)



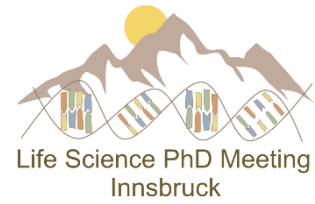
Matthias Erlacher, Maria Kompatscher, Patrizia Stoitzner (from left to right).



Matthias Erlacher, Patrizia Stoitzner and Deborah Minzaghi (from left to right).

- Neuroscience Best Paper Award:

**Sadegh Rashimi**, PhD from the Department of Pharmacology, MUI: “The role of subicular VIP-expressing interneurons on seizure dynamics in the intrahippocampal kainic acid model of temporal lobe epilepsy” *Exp Neurol.* 2023 (First prize ex aequo)



**Katharina Steiner**, Laboratory of Psychiatry and Experimental Alzheimer's Research, MUI: “Beta-Amyloid Enhances Vessel Formation in Organotypic Brain Slices Connected to Microcontact Prints” *Biomolecules.* 2023 (First prize ex aequo)



*Laura Zamarian, Sadegh Rashimi,  
Katharina Steiner, Johannes Passecker  
(from left to right).*

- Best Talk Award on Thursday

**Victoria Halim**, Institute of Physiology, “Paralemmin-3 - an essential constituent of the submembrane cytoskeleton of auditory hair cells”

- Best Talk on Friday

**Felix Eichin**, Institute for Developmental Immunology, “Centrosome independent function of the PIDosome in the development of NAFLD”

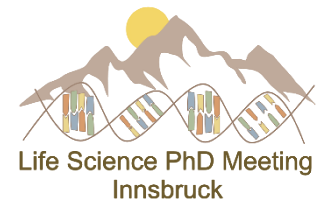
- Best Poster on Thursday

**Isabel Singer**, Institute of Cell Biology, “Protein interactions and metabolic signalling at the lysosome”

- Best Poster Award on Friday

**Martin Heiss**, Institute of Physiology, “Role of the charge transfer center as a bimodal regulator of voltage-dependence and kinetics of CaV voltage sensors action”.

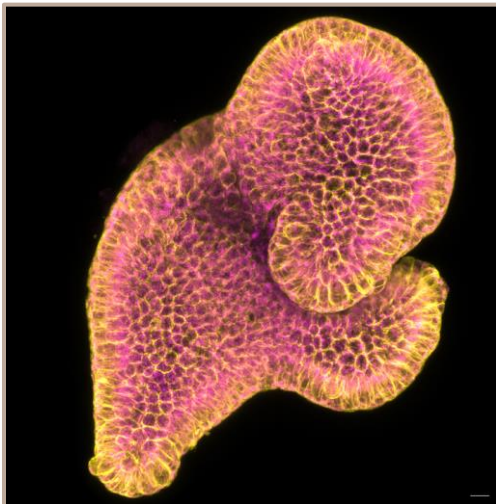




*Martin Heiss, Isabel Singer, Victoria Halim and Felix Eichin (from left to right).*

- *Microscopy Award*

**Marlene Lochner**, PhD student in the Cell Death and Inflammation Lab, at the Institute for Developmental Immunology, MUI.



*Confocal image of a whole mount mouse intestinal crypt organoid, optically cleared and stained for mitochondria (TOM20, magenta) and alpha/beta-Tubulin (yellow). Image captured on the Zeiss 980 with Airyscan 2 in the Biooptics facility using a 25x glycerol objective in 4Y mode and Airyscan processed. The image is a maximum intensity projection of 200 z-slices of the whole mouse intestinal crypt organoid. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m.*



*Ilaria Dorigatti, Johannes Wölk, Marlene Lochner, Giacomo Gariglio (from left to right).*