

# DFG-Graduiertenkolleg GRK2599

*Fine-Tuners of Adaptive Immune Responses*

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg



## ***Promotion für Medizinstudenten***

**DFG**

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

**Bewerbung:** ab 1. Nov. 2021

**Frist:** 20. 12. 2021

**Rekrutierung:** 20. Jan. 2022

**Beginn:** 26. September 2022

# Research Training Group 2599

*FAIR – Fine-Tuners of the Adaptive Immune Response*



**Concept**

Hans-Martin Jäck



Universitätsklinikum  
Erlangen



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

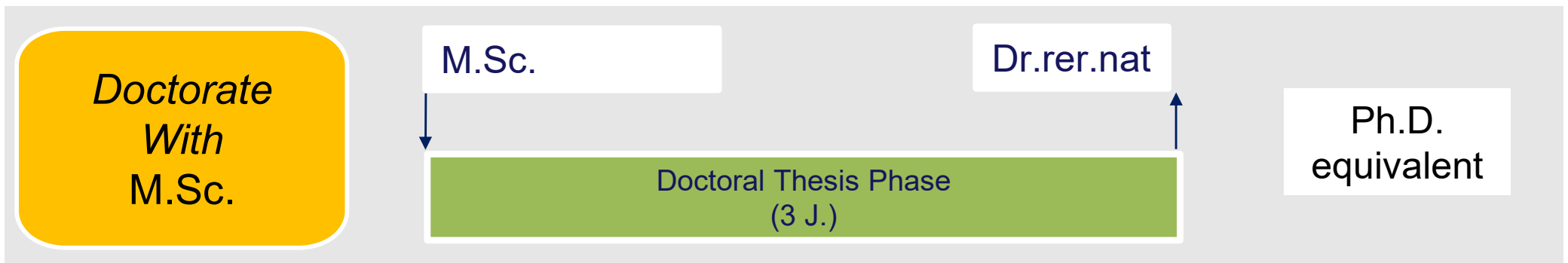


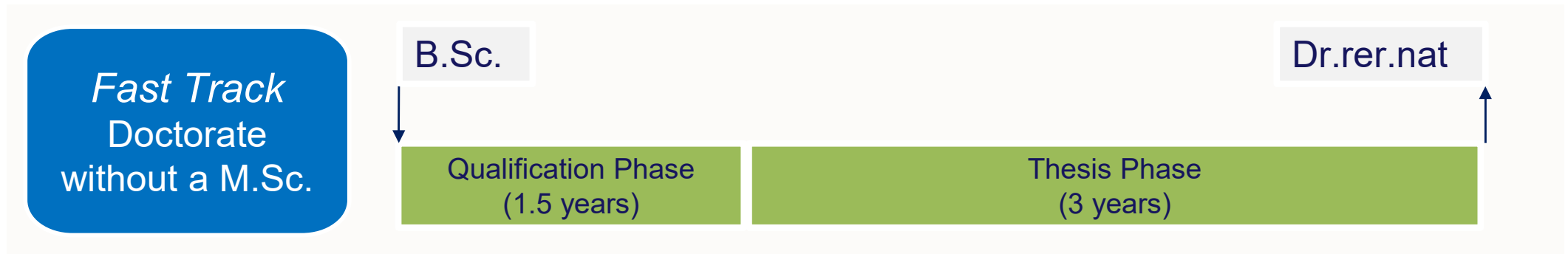
Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

## Doctoral Training Program

*Research Training Group = RTG*  
*Graduiertenkolleg = GRK*

- Research
- Training
- Mentoring



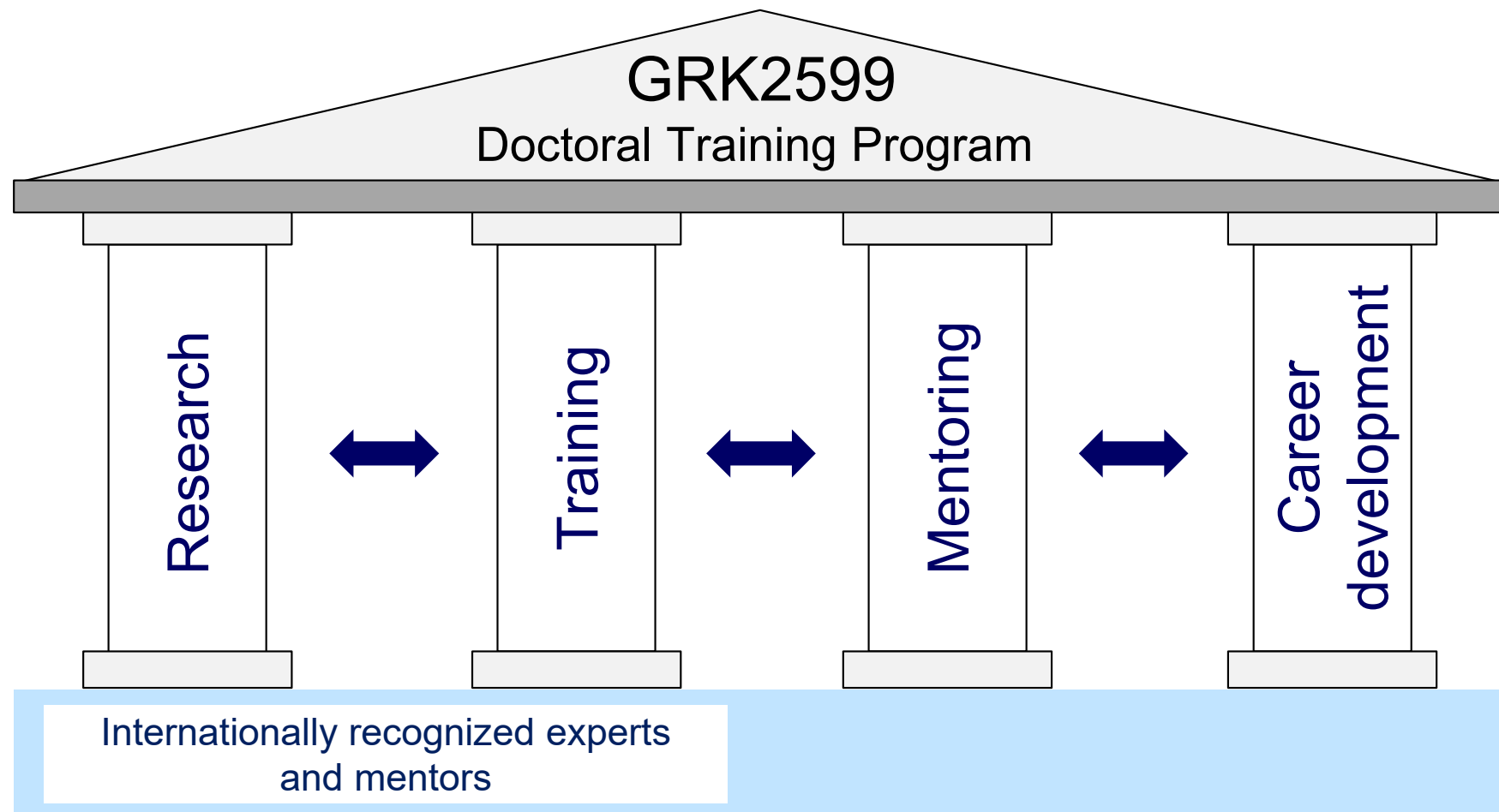


Identify new regulators  
and fine-tuners of the  
adaptive immune  
response

Train skilled &  
competitive  
immunologists

Motivate graduates to  
further pursue  
academic research

Train physicians who  
can translate laboratory  
discovery into effective  
treatments





3

**Genetics**



3

**Medicine 3**

*Rheumatology and Immunology*

1

**Dermatology**

2

**Medicine 1**

*Gastroenterology, Pneumology & Endocrinology*

1

**Microbiology**

*Clinical Microbiology, Immunology & Hygiene*

1

**Radiation Oncology**

1

**Infection Biology**

2

**Molecular Immunology**

1

**Immune Modulation**

1. Dudziak, Diana
2. Gaipf, Udo
3. Jäck, Hans-Martin
4. Krönke, Gerhard
5. Lang, Roland
6. Mielenz, Dirk
7. Nitschke, Lars
8. Steinkasserer, Alexander
9. Vöhringer, David
10. Winkler, Thomas
11. Wirtz, Stefan
12. Hildner, Kai
13. Bozec, Aline
14. Steffen, Ulrike
15. Lux, Anja

## ■ 15 Researchers

- ✓ *3 from the Depart. of Biology*
- ✓ *12 from 8 clinics and institutes at the university hospital*

## ■ Selection Criteria

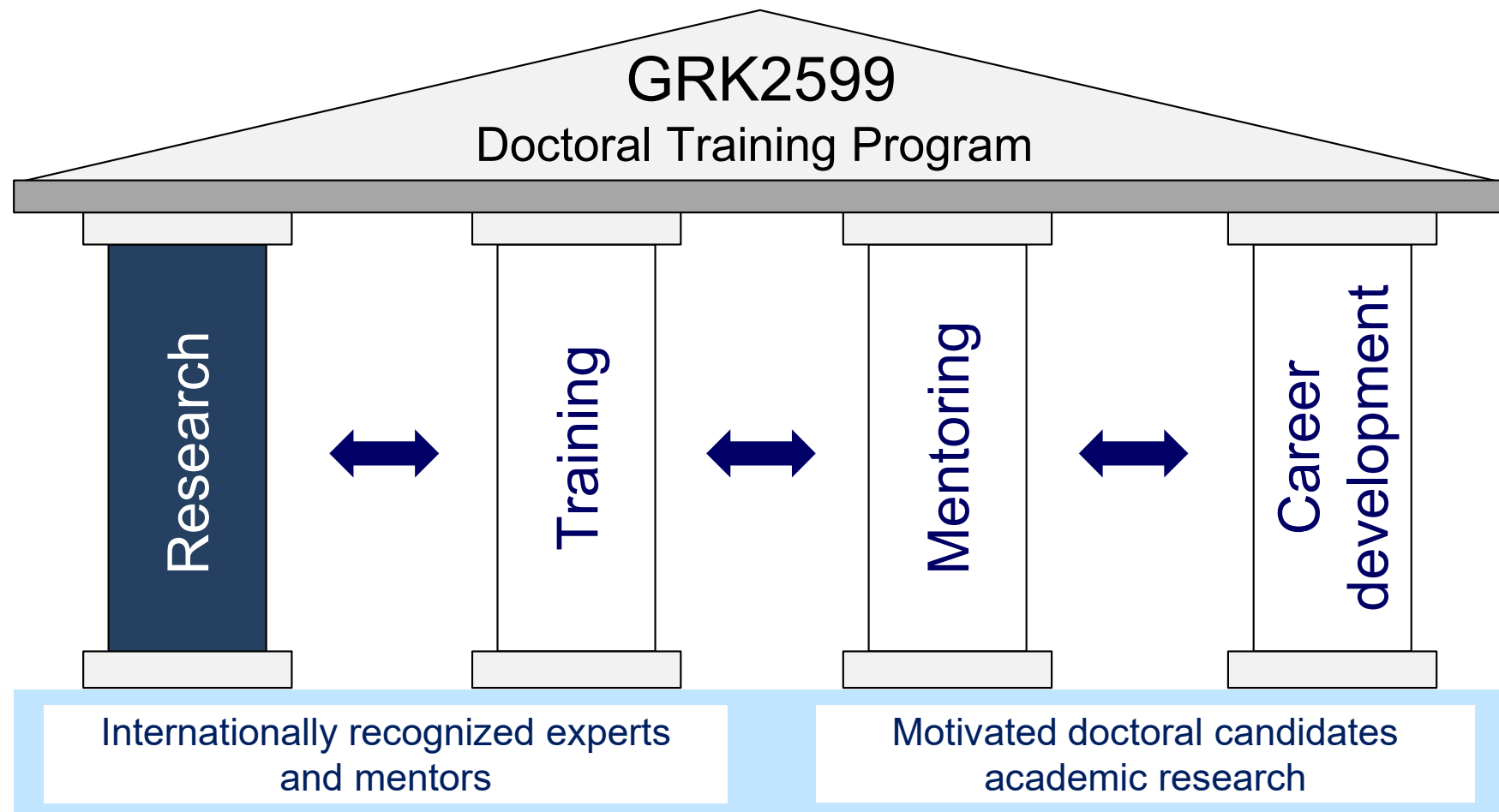
- ✓ *Fine-tuners of adaptive immunity*
- ✓ *Publications*
- ✓ *Extramural funding*
- ✓ *Teaching experience*

Identify new regulators  
and fine-tuners of the  
adaptive immune  
response

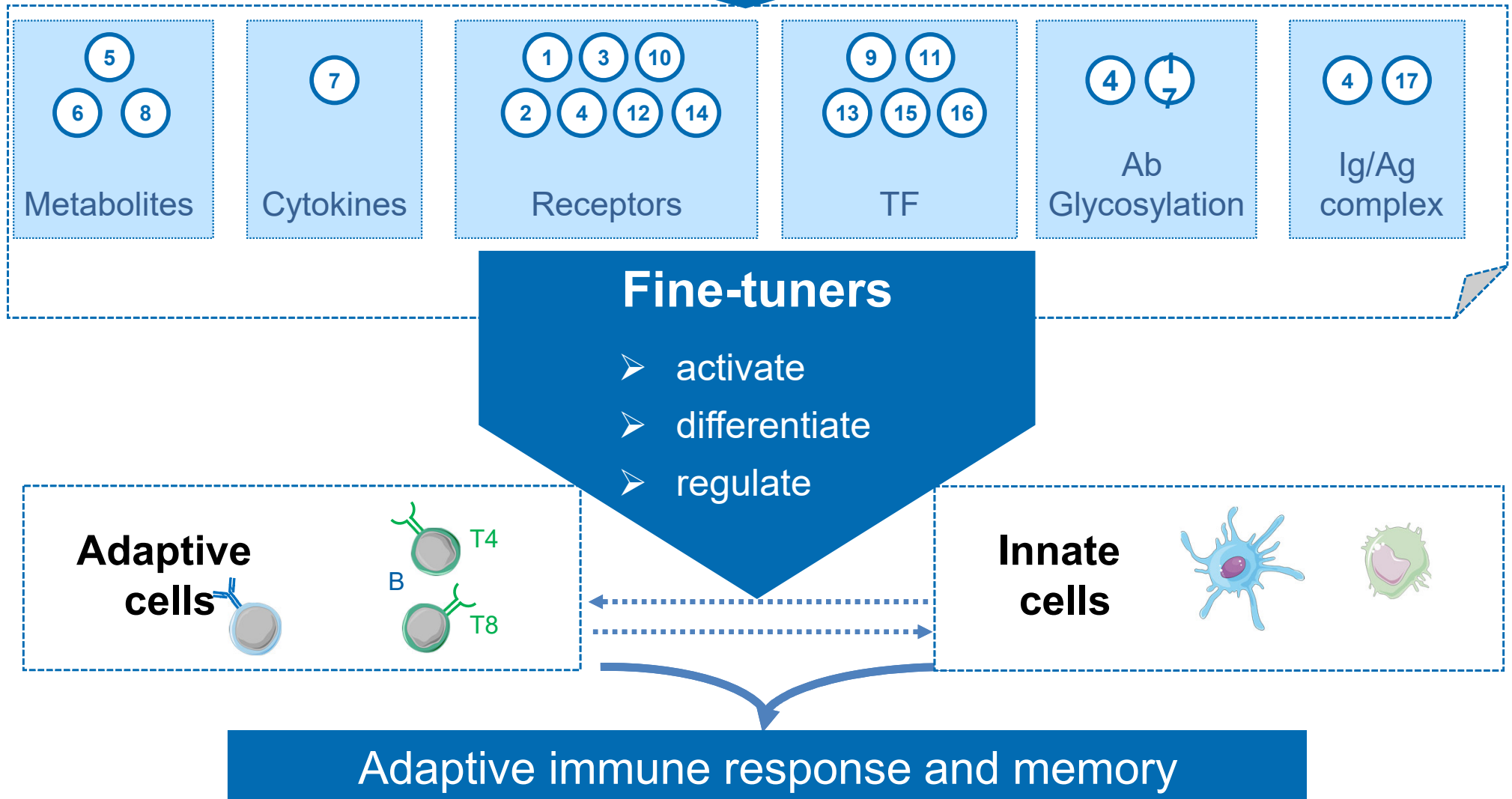
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16 hypothesis-driven thesis projects that address the role of factors

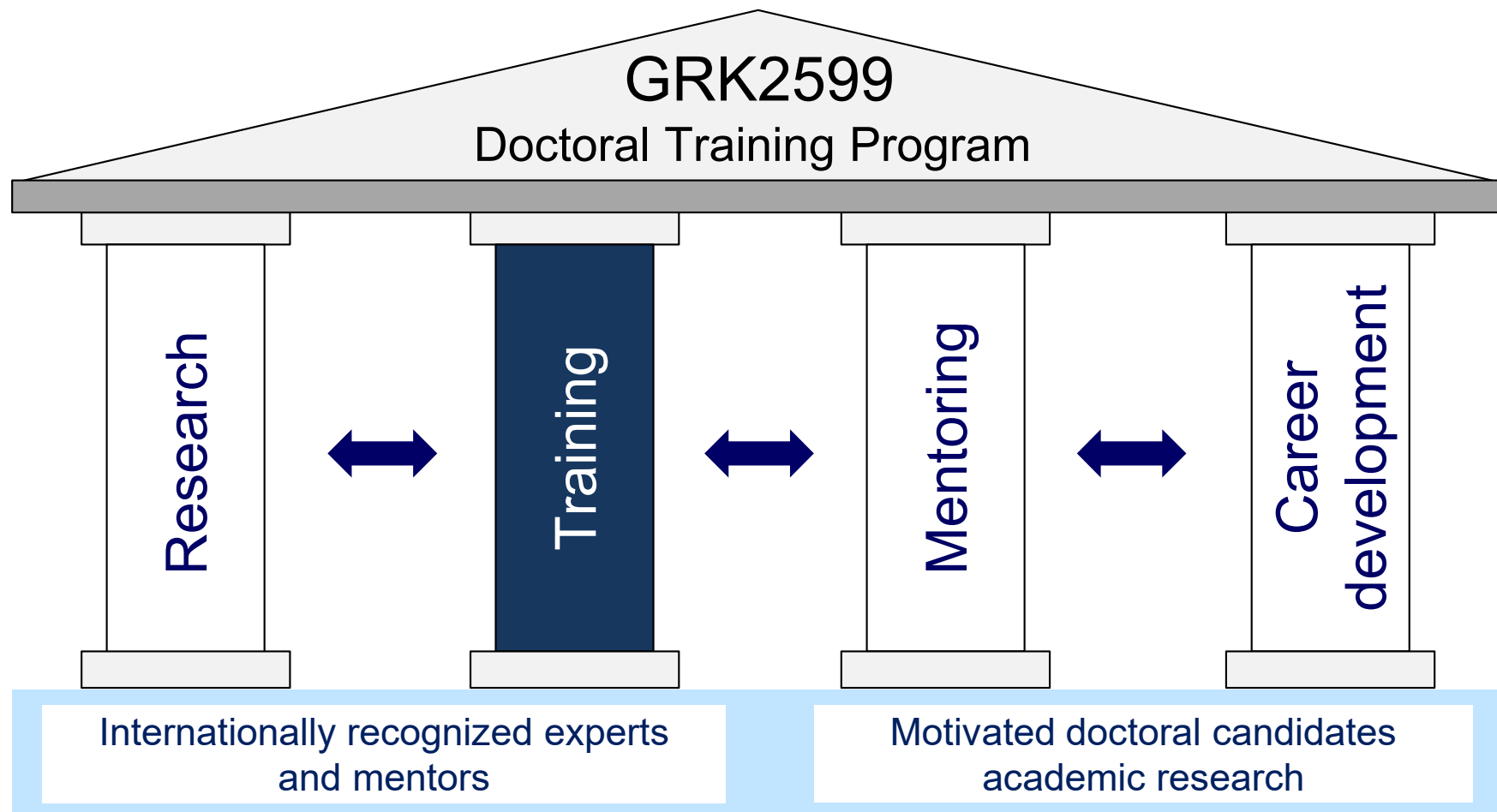


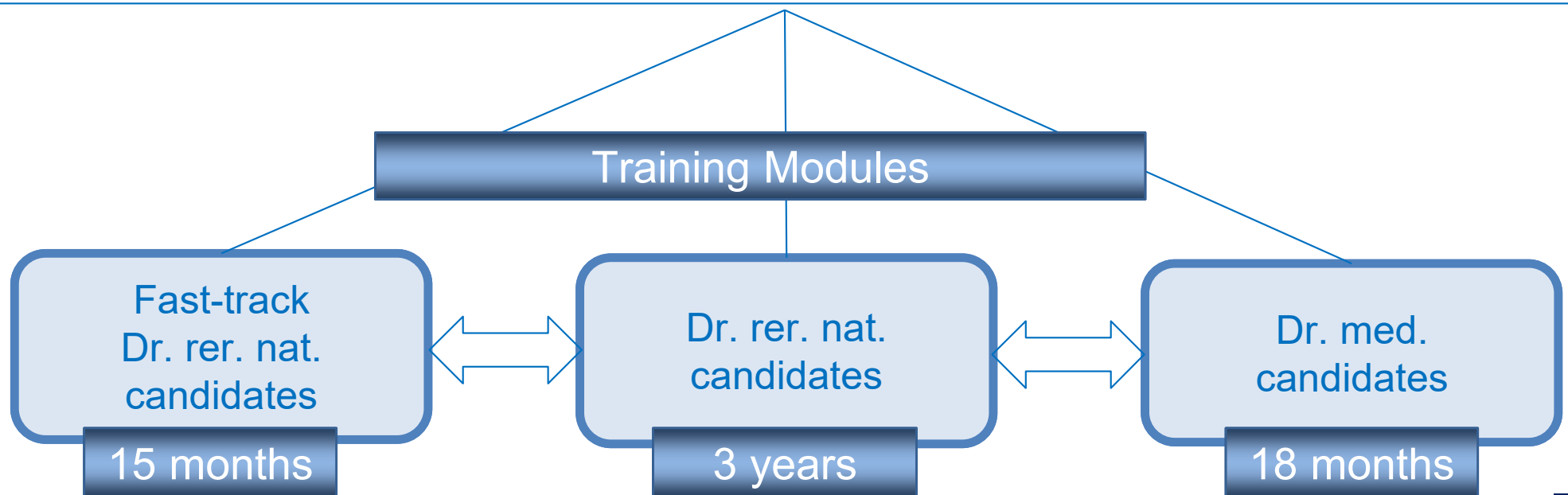
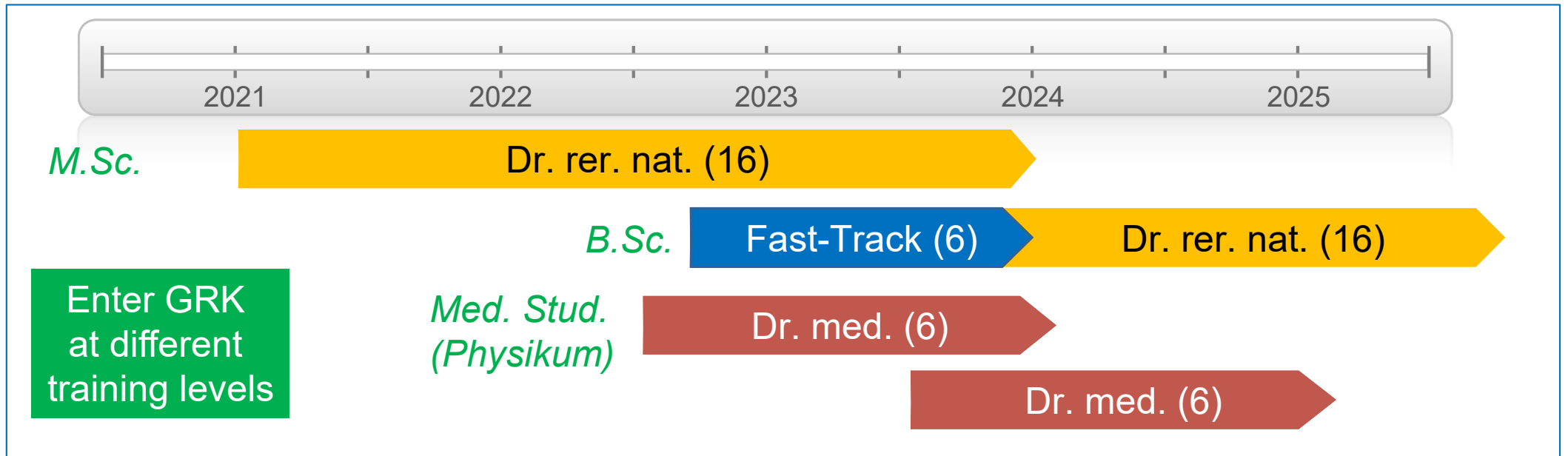
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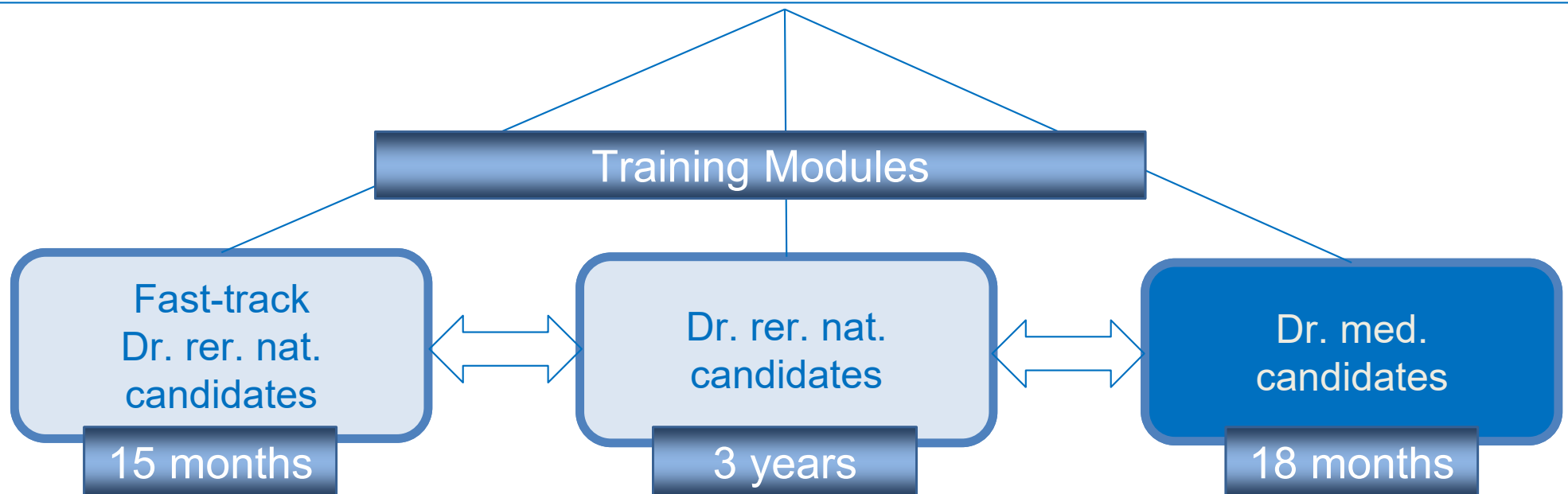
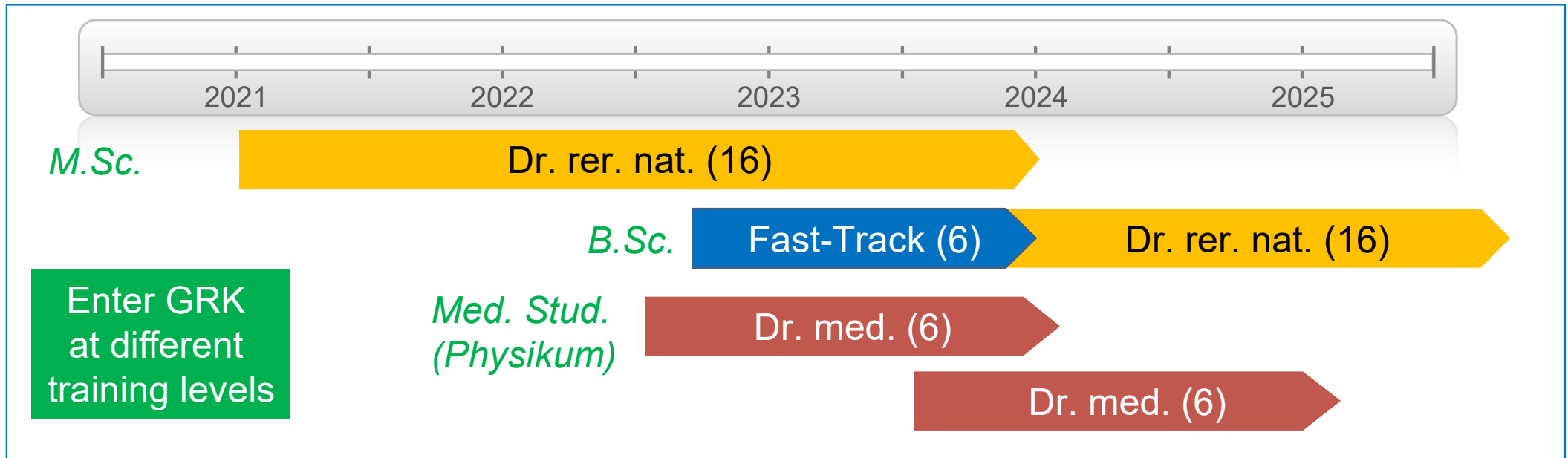
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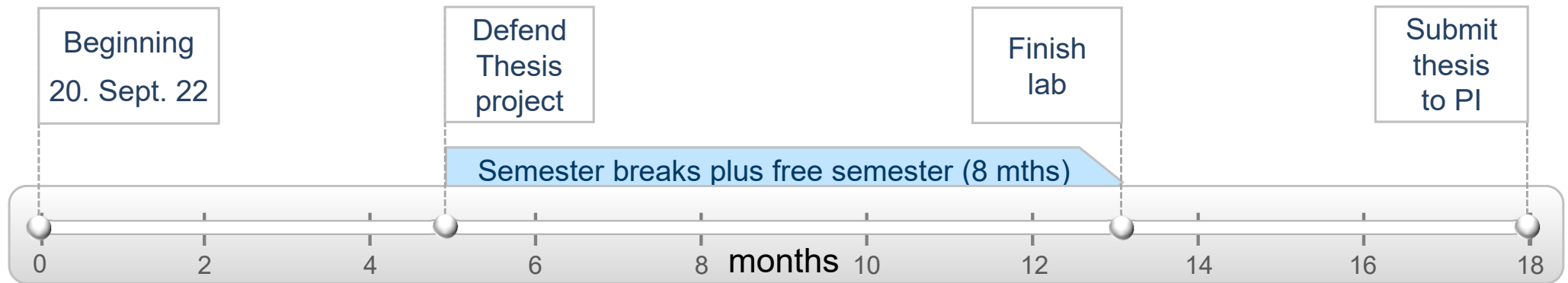
Motivate graduates to  
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Produce physicians who  
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## Prepare (5 months)

- ☐ Lab techniques (2 wks in GRK labs during semester break)
- ☐ DGfI Autumn School
- ☐ GRK-organized seminar "How to read a manuscript and prepare a grant proposal"
- ☐ Selection of dissertation lab and preparation of proposal
- ☐ Defense of proposed thesis project

## Research (8 months)

- ☐ Lab work
- ☐ GRK Jour-fixe (2hrs, weekly)
- ☐ WS - Scientific Writing (2d)
- ☐ GRK Retreat (2d)
- ☐ Int. GRK Symposium (3d)
- ☐ Paul-Ehrlich Club (every 2wks)

- ☐ GRK Network meeting (3d)
- ☐ GRK seminar
- ☐ iIMMUNE lectures

### Workload (obligatory)

- 2-3 hrs/wk
- 7 days

## Finish (5 months)

- ☐ Finish lab
- ☐ Write thesis
- ☐ Good Scientific Practice (1d)
- ☐ GRK Retreat (3d)
- ☐ GRK Public relation (1d)

- ☐ Bioinformatics
- ☐ Biostatistics
- ☐ GRK network
- ☐ Paul-Ehrlich-Club

☐ obligatory ☐ optional

## Annual Internal GRK Retreat



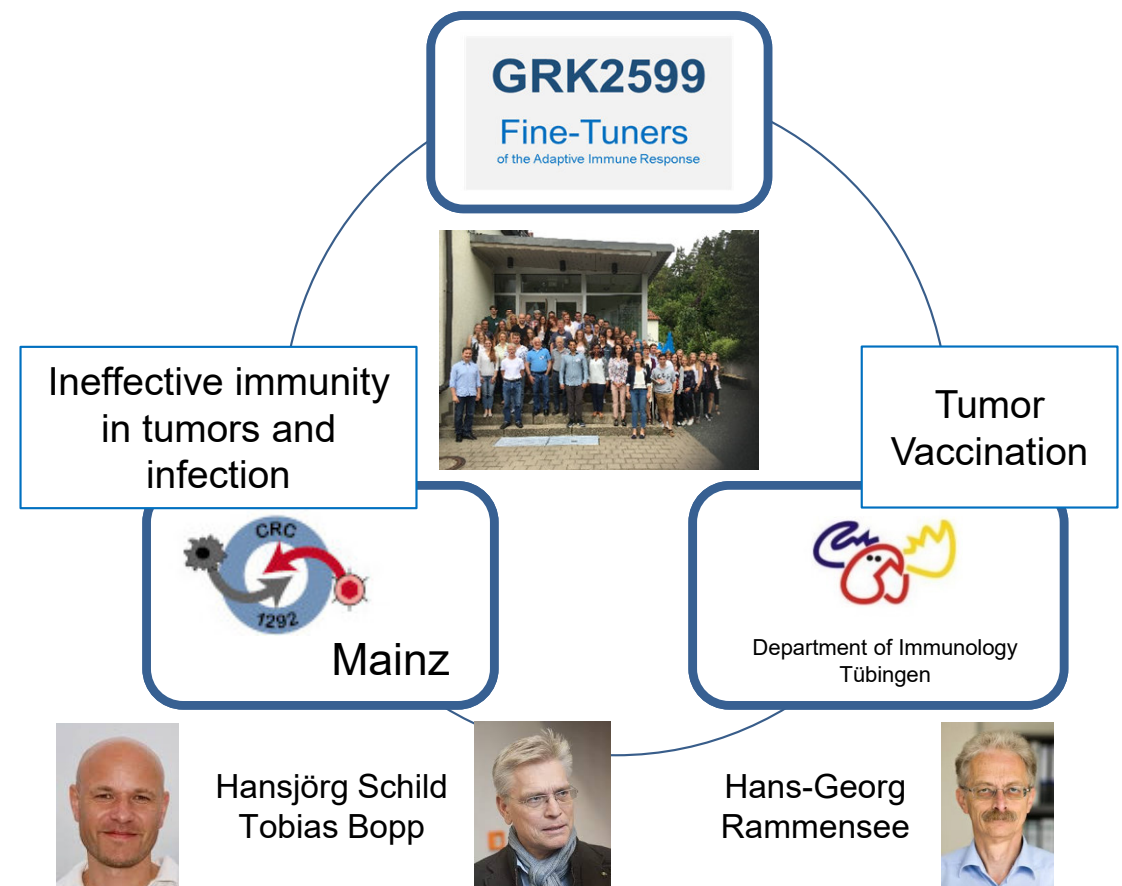
## Annual RTG Network Meeting



## Annual Internal GRK Retreat



## Annual RTG Network Meeting



## International GRK Symposium (2023)

**5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GK SYMPOSIUM**  
REGULATORS OF ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY  
SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

David Allman • Philadelphia • USA  
Dennis Burton • La Jolla • USA  
Michael Cancro • Philadelphia • USA  
Sidonia Fagarasan • Yokohama • Japan  
Martin Flajnik • Baltimore • USA  
David Gray • Edinburgh • UK  
Kathryn Haskins • Denver • USA  
Marco Herold • Parkville • Australia  
Tasuku Honjo • Kyoto • Japan  
Leszek Ignatowicz • Augusta • USA  
George Kassiotis • London • UK  
Janet Kelso • Leipzig • Germany  
Lars Klareskog • Stockholm • Sweden  
Shigeo Koyasu • Tokyo • Japan  
Olivier Lantz • Paris • France  
Polly Matzinger • Bethesda • USA  
Michel Nussenzweig • New York • USA  
Giorgio Trinchieri • Bethesda • USA  
Marc Schmidt-Supprian • München • Germany  
Tim Sparwasser • Hannover • Germany  
Dario Vignali • Pittsburgh • USA  
Arthur Weiss • San Francisco • USA

**LOCATION**  
New Lecture Hall of Medical Faculty • Ulmenweg 18 • 91054 Erlangen

**www.gk-symposium.de**

Certified by the „Bayerische Landesärztekammer“ with 18 CME credits

Universitätsklinikum Erlangen

DFG

GRK2599

ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY

IRTC1181

FAU FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

**Immunology**

**Dermatology**

**Microbiology**

**Genetics**

**Haematology / Rheumatology**

**Virology**

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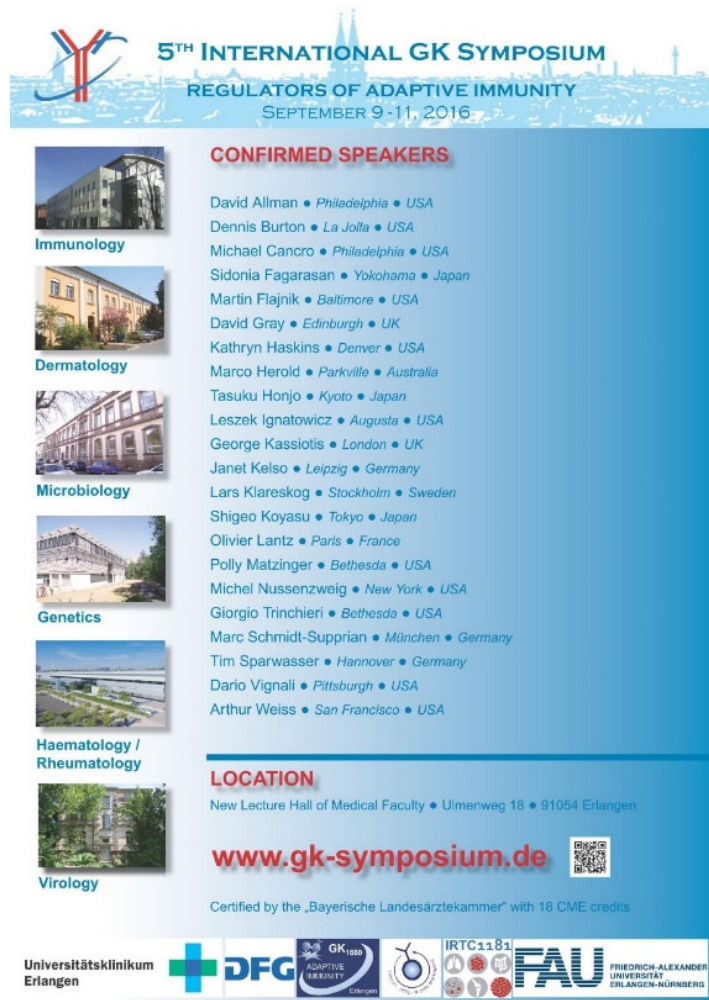
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Dario Vignali • Pittsburgh • USA  
Arthur Weiss • San Francisco • USA



2018

## International GRK Symposium (2022)

## GRK Mini Symposia



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**Dermatology**

**Microbiology**

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**Haematology / Rheumatology**

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Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, DFG, GK1660, IRTG1181, FAU FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG



**GK1660**  
**ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY**  
Erlangen

**Current Topics in Immunology**  
**Focus: Neuroimmunology**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

**13:00** **Hans-Martin Jäck (Speaker GK1660)**  
Welcome and Overview

**13:15** **Hartmut Wekerle**  
Max-Planck-Institut für Neurobiologie, München  
*The intestinal origin of brain autoimmunity*

**14:15** **Luisa Klotz**  
Klinik für Allgemeine Neurologie, Münster  
*Nuclear receptors and modulation of CNS autoimmunity*

**15:15** **Coffee Break**

**15:45** **Alexander Flügel**  
Universitätsmedizin, Neuroimmunologie, Göttingen  
*Visualizing checkpoints of autoaggressive T cell infiltration into the CNS*

**16:45** **Georg Pongratz**  
Exp. Rheumatologie und Neuroendokrinimmunologie, Universitätsklinikum, Regensburg  
*The sympathetic nervous system modulates inflammation – focus on arthritis and B cells*

**17:45** **General Discussion: EAE in Mice and Alzheimer in Human?**  
(Chair: Alexander Steinkasserer)

**18:30** **End**

**19:00** **Dinner** (for persons with reservation only)

Seminarraum EG – 0.024  
Nikolaus-Fiebiger Zentrum

## DGfI Autumn School

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immunologie 

*An up-to-date educational journey through the immune system for everyone including STUDENTS, POSTDOCS and GROUP LEADERS with a background in NATURAL SCIENCES or MEDICINE. The program includes lectures by internationally renowned experts, student presentations as well as interactive sessions to meet the speakers and to foster networking within our immunological community.*

**Application deadline: July 01, 2019**  
[www.dgfi.org/akademie-fuer-immunologie/autumn-school](http://www.dgfi.org/akademie-fuer-immunologie/autumn-school)

**Keynote**  
Klaus Heeg  
Joachim Schultze  
Marco Prinz  
Hubertus Hochrein

**Organizers**  
Sandra Beer-Hammer  
Olaf Groß  
Thomas Kamradt  
Birgit Sawitzki  
Wolfgang Schuh

**Administration**  
Iris Noetzelmann • Tübingen  
Bettina Happel • Marburg  
Agnes Giniewski • Erlangen

**Faculty**  
Hyun-Dong Chang  
Anne Dudeck  
Diana Dudziak  
Louis Du Pasquier  
Georg Gasteiger  
Ulf Grawunder  
Dirk Haller  
Jochen Hühn  
Julia Jellusova  
Ludger Klein  
Roland Lang  
Axel Roers  
Marc Schmidt-Supprian  
Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann

**11<sup>th</sup> Autumn School**  
*Current Concepts in Immunology*  
October 14 - 19, 2019 • Merseburg • Sachsen-Anhalt

## Other Meetings

**BIOLOGY of LYMPHOCYTES**  
DGfI Research Focus Group



### 18<sup>th</sup> B Cell Forum

AllgäuSternHotel,  
Sonthofen, Germany

12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2020



### 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

of the German Society for Immunology

CELEBRATING 50 years  
DGfI



12-15 September 2017 - ERLANGEN

Abstract Deadline: 7 May 2017



[www.immunology-conference.de](http://www.immunology-conference.de)



**KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA**

**Integrating Metabolism and Immunity**

Organizers: Marc Y. Donath, Tom Thuren, Bruce M. Spiegelman and Diane Mathis  
January 24-28, 2021 | Keystone Resort, Keystone, Colorado, USA

# Immunology Autumn School

GRK2599  
FAIR



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German Society  
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*An up-to-date educational journey through the immune system for everyone including STUDENTS, POSTDOCS and GROUP LEADERS with a background in NATURAL SCIENCES or MEDICINE. The program includes lectures by internationally renowned experts, student presentations as well as interactive sessions to meet the speakers and to foster networking within our immunological community.*

**Application deadline: July 01, 2018**  
**[www.herbstschule.de](http://www.herbstschule.de)**

**Key Note**  
Klaus Heeg (Heidelberg)  
Michael Sixt (Austria)  
Thorsten Buch (München)  
Nigel Kileen (San Francisco)

**Faculty**  
Stefan Bauer  
Hyun-Dong Chang  
Diana Dudziak  
Louis Du Pasquier  
Niklas Engels  
Ulf Grawunder  
Dirk Haller  
Jochen Hühn  
Ludger Klein  
Roland Lang  
Axel Roers  
Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann  
Carsten Watzl

**Scientific Organizers**  
Hans-Martin Jäck  
Sandra Beer-Hammer  
Olaf Groß  
Thomas Kamradt  
Birgit Sawitzki  
Wolfgang Schuh

**Administrative Organizers**  
Elisabeth Lang • Erlangen  
Bettina Happel • Marburg  
Agnes Giniewski • Erlangen

## 10<sup>th</sup> Autumn School

### Current Concepts in Immunology

**October 07 - 12, 2018 • Merseburg • Sachsen-Anhalt**

10 <sup>th</sup> Autumn School Current Concepts in Immunology					PROGRAM 2018	
Time	Sunday 07. October	Monday 08. October	Tuesday 09. October	Wednesday 10. October	Thursday 11. October	Friday 12. October
09:00	Arrival & Registration (starting at 3pm)	Hans-Martin Jäck	Diana Dudziak	Wolfgang Schuh	Dirk Haller	Departure
09:30		Overview Immunity (30 min)	How dendritic cells activate T cells (30 min)	How mature B cells develop (30 min)	Microbiome and immunity (30 min)	
09:45		Stefan Bauer	Ludger Klein	Hans-Martin Jäck	Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann	
10:15		How innate immunity protects I (30 min)	How T cells develop (30 min)	How B cells produce antibodies (30 min)	Allergy (30 min)	
10:30		Break	Break	Break	Break	
10:50		Olaf Groß	Hyun-Dong Chang	Hans-Martin Jäck	Birgit Sawitzki	
11:20		How innate immunity protects II (30 min)	Effector CD4 T cells (30 min)	B cells beyond antibodies (30 min)	Metabolism of immune cells (30 min)	
11:35		Axel Roers	Jochen Hühn	Thomas Kamradt	Ulf Grawunder	
12:05		How cells recognize foreign DNA/RNA (30 min)	How T cells regulate immunity (30 min)	Autoimmune diseases (30 min)	Onco-immunology (30 min)	
12:20						
13:00		Lunch & Meet-the-speakers	Lunch & Meet-the-speakers	Lunch & Meet-the-speakers	Lunch & Meet-the-speakers	
14:15		Meet the companies (14.15 - 15.45)	Free time	Free time	Free time	
15:30		Break	How T cells kill (30 min)	Animal research Moderators: Kamradt/Beer-Hammer	How the immune system evolved (40 min)	
16:00		Roland Lang	Carsten Watzl	Flow cytometry Moderators: Schuh/Chang	TBA	
16:15		Macrophages & Granulocytes (30 min)	How innate lymphocytes help and kill (30 min)	CRISPR/Cas Moderator: Engels/Buch	Special Event	
16:45						
17:00	Welcome		Break	Break	Break	
17:30	Klaus Heeg	Nigel Kileen	Thorsten Buch	Michael Sixt		
18:15	Discovery of Cytokines (40 min)	Cellular Immunotherapy (40 min)	CRISPR/Cas and Transgenic mice (40 min)	How immune cells move (40 min)		
18:30	Dinner	Dinner & Meet-the-speakers	Dinner & Meet-the-speakers	Dinner & Meet-the-speakers	Dinner & Meet-the-speakers	
20:00	Get together	Poster Session I	Free time	Poster Session II	10 Years Autumn School	
22:00						

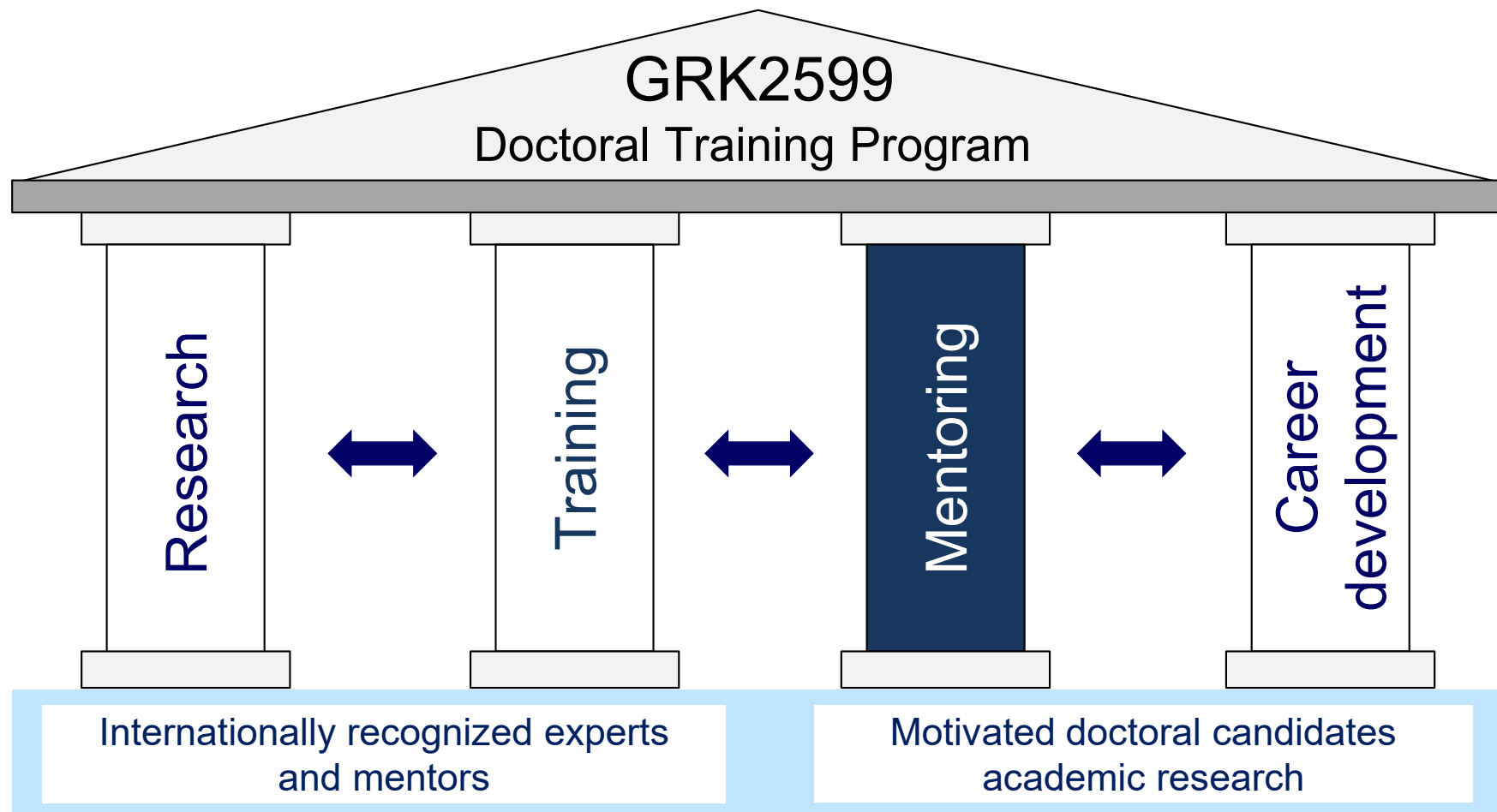
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	Break		Break		Break		Break		Break	
	Olaf Groß		Hyun-Dong Chang		Hans-Martin Jäck		Birgit Sawitzki		Birgit Sawitzki	
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						</				

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## Qualification Phase

### For Fast-Track and Dr. med. candidates

- Assigned advisors
  - *One GRK PI as mentor*
  - *GRK speaker and vice-speakers*
  - *GRK coordinator*
- Duties
  - *Advice on course selection & lab internship abroad*
  - *Any other questions*

## Dissertation Phase

### For all doctoral candidates

- Thesis advisory committee (TAC)
  - *3 GRK PIs suggested by candidate*
  - *1-2 times per year*
- GRK coordinator

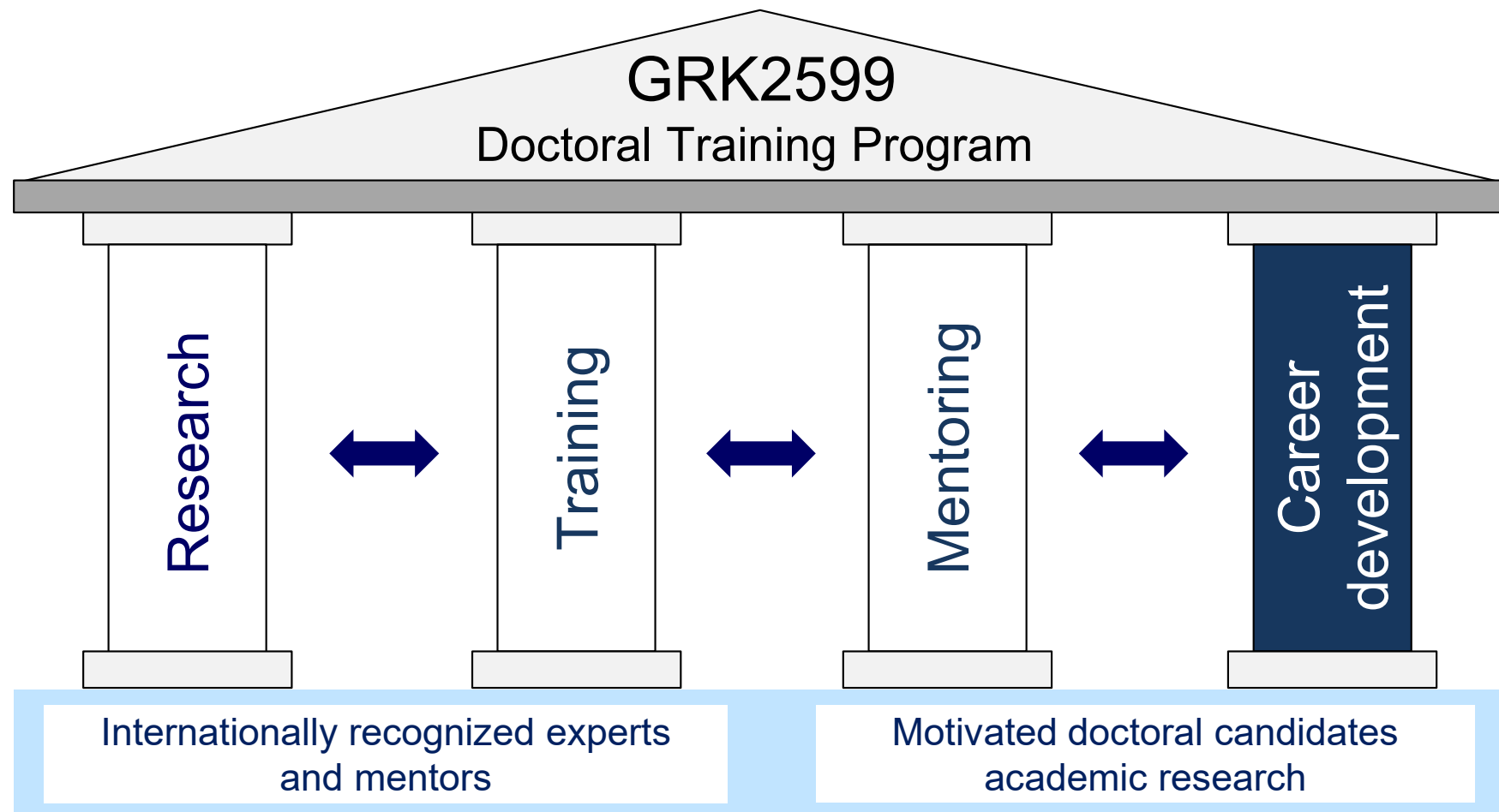
- Defense of the doctoral project (“DFG” proposal )
- Yearly Meetings with thesis advisory committee (TAC)
- Oral or poster presentations at
  - *Annual internal retreats*
  - *Annual RTG network meeting*

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treatments



- ❑ Improve **paper and grant writing** proficiencies
- ❑ Acquire **mentor expertise** through supervision of students
- ❑ Develop **management skills** by organizing GRK events
- ❑ Acquire **decision-making expertise** by membership in GRK steering committee
- ❑ Build **professional networks** through company visits, international internships, attending meetings and visiting potential post-doc labs
- ❑ **Prepare for job interviews** through career-relevant workshops

- ❑ Improve paper and grant writing proficiencies
- ❑ Acquire mentor expertise through supervision of students

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**Graduate School GK1660**  
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Hans-Martin Jäck  
**Contact Information**  
Tobit Steinmetz  
Division of Molecular Immunology  
University Hospital Erlangen  
D-91054 Erlangen, Glückstraße 6  
[tobit.steinmetz@uk-erlangen.de](mailto:tobit.steinmetz@uk-erlangen.de)

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#### Project Aim and Methods

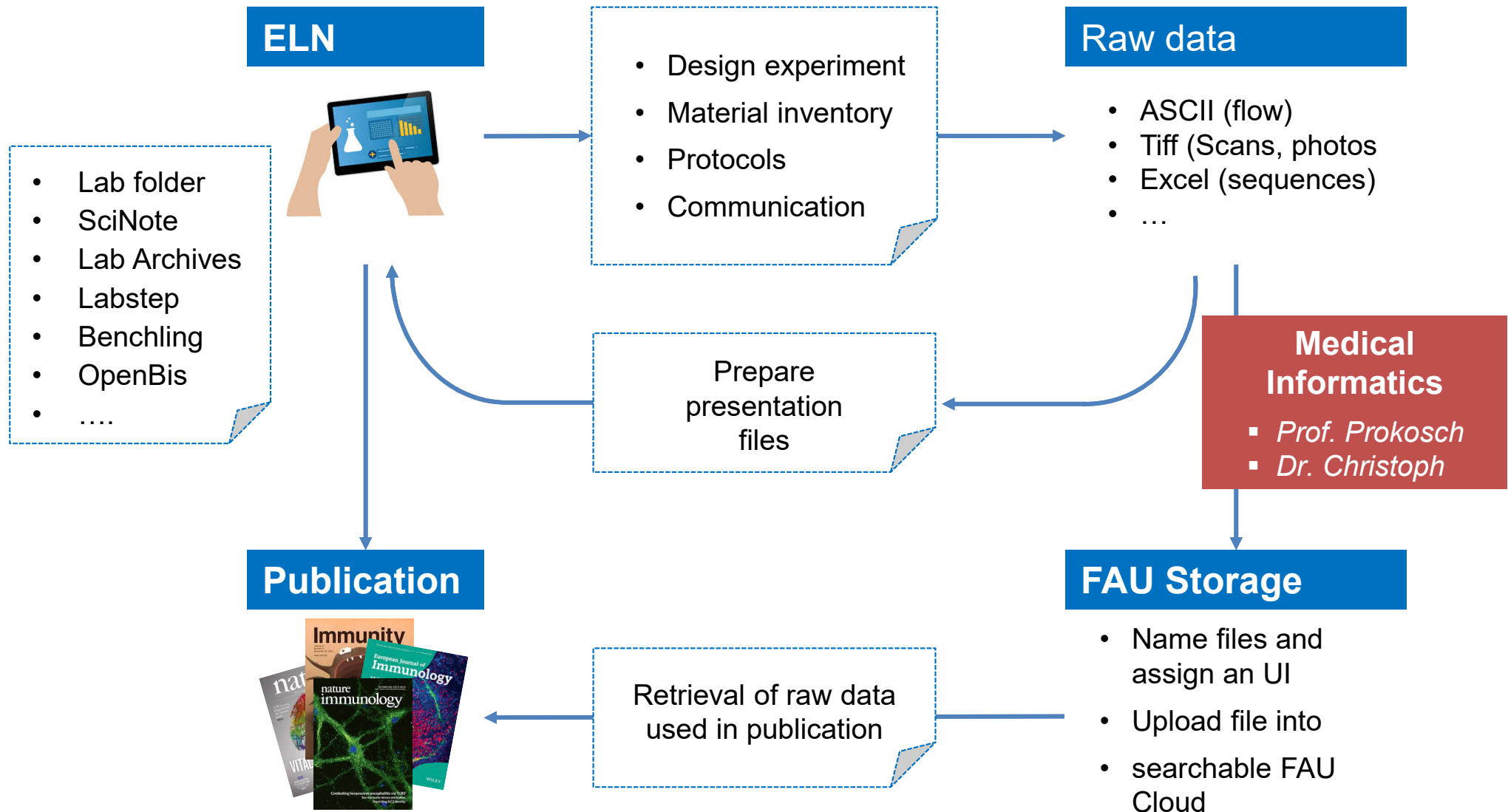
Antibodies are secreted by plasma cells (PC) that are generated in the periphery and migrate to the bone marrow to establish a long lived pool. The terminal differentiation of B lymphocytes into PC is controlled by a network of transcription factors that cross-regulate each other. RNAseq data have established a plasma cell signature and revealed many unknown genes to be up- or down-regulated in plasma cells. Elucidation of the function of these genes will help to understand the cell biology of PC that is required to support antibody production. PC differentiation and antibody secretion are tightly interlinked with ER quality control and autophagy. We seek to address the concept of cell biological remodeling of PC in relation to antibody secretion and quality control with a particular focus on a gene that is up-regulated in PC, the Tropomyosin receptor kinase (Trk) fused gene (TfG). TfG functions in ER/Golgi transport and organization and regulation of cell size, both of which increase during plasma cell differentiation. Our preliminary data obtained in Crisp/Cas-targeted CH12 murine lymphoma and MOPC104E plasmacytoma cells have revealed three phenotypes: TfG knock-out (KO) 1. decreases survival, 2. increases basal autophagy and 3. sensitizes cells towards ER stress. We generated mice carrying a constitutively targeted null allele of TfG (TfGKO) but we were not able to obtain homozygous TfGKO offspring. Yet, already TfG heterozygous mice show decreased serum IgA and reduced PC numbers in Peyer's patches and trends towards reduced IgM and PC numbers in various organs. We hypothesize that TfG is important for PC homeostasis in vivo by regulating ER quality control and autophagy. We want to determine how TfG prevents apoptosis, ER stress and autophagy in targeted CH12 and MOPC104E cells. We will also generate and analyze PC generation and function in mice carrying a B cell specific deletion of TfG by establishing and crossing TfG<sup>fl</sup> mice with mb1-Cre and CD23-Cre mice. The results of this project will increase our understanding of plasma cell biology and is therefore relevant for normal and dysregulated humoral immunity, such as in autoimmune diseases or plasmacytoma.

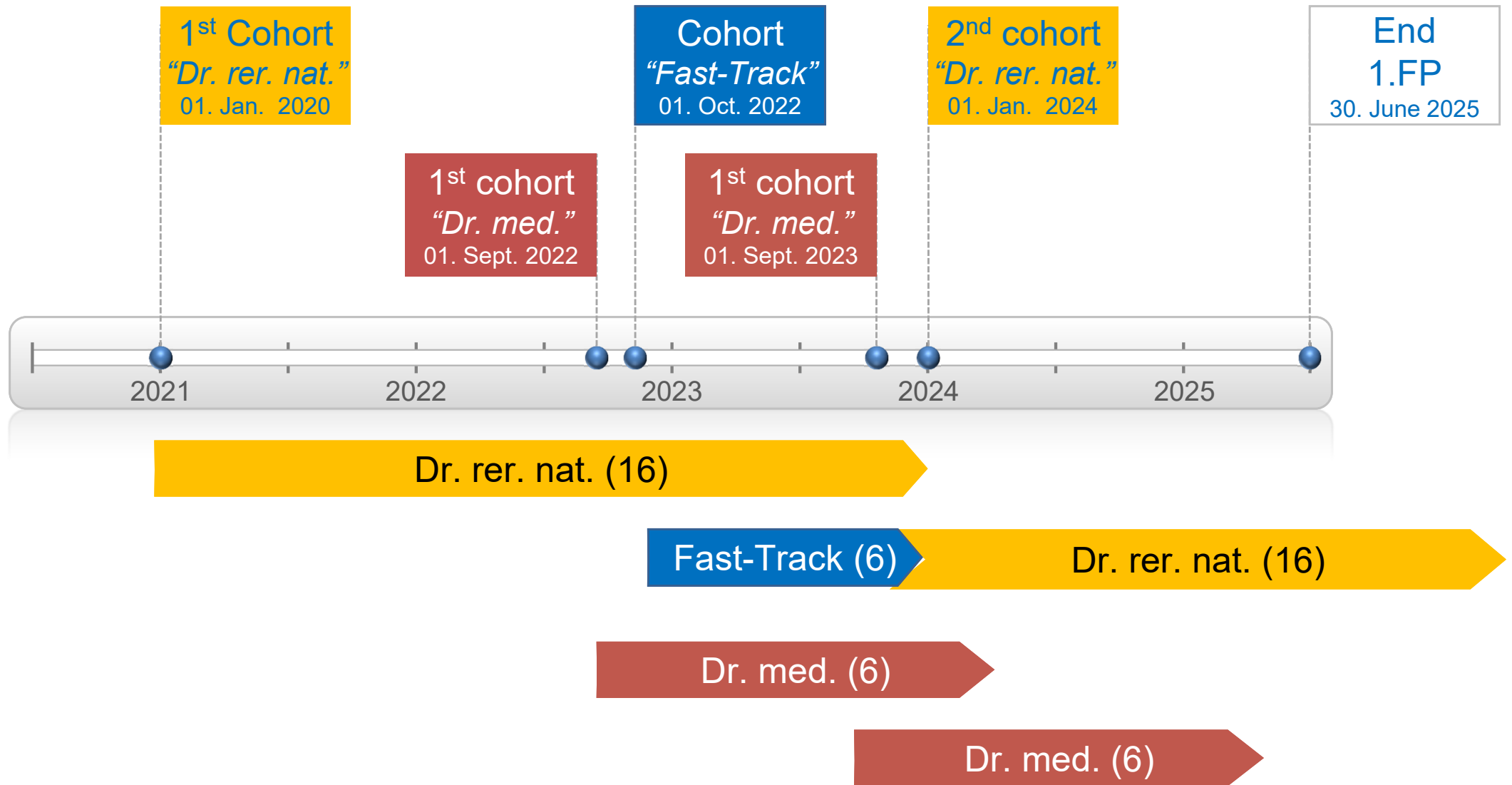
#### Planned tasks for RISE student

The student project will contain analysis of TFG KO cell lines in terms of ER stress, unfolded protein response and autophagy with qRT-PCR, EISpot and flow cytometry or assistant to characterize the conditional KO of TFG in vivo murine B cells either with mb1-Cre or CD23-Cre using flow cytometry, ELISA and in vitro cultures of isolated B cells.

#### Information about the Division of Molecular Immunology

As a working group of 15-20 members around 4 group leaders under the supervision of Prof. Dr. H.M. Jäck we are interested in B lymphocyte and plasma cell development, function and homeostasis. B lymphocytes are essential for a humoral immune response and the generation of a functional memory. For our investigations we use modern techniques like "Seahorse", single cell analyses of 10x genomics or Crisp/Cas. Standard methods like flow cytometry, western blotting and PCR are common methods in our laboratory. The research Institute is located in the medium sized town of Erlangen famous for its outstanding university clinic, in the middle of Bavaria. Nevertheless the city has a natural, rural charm and despite its size relaxation in the nature is never far away. The whole region of Franconia is famous for various breweries and Bavarian beer.





## MD candidates

Open Positions  
announcements  
**Nov 1**

Application  
deadline  
**Dec 20**

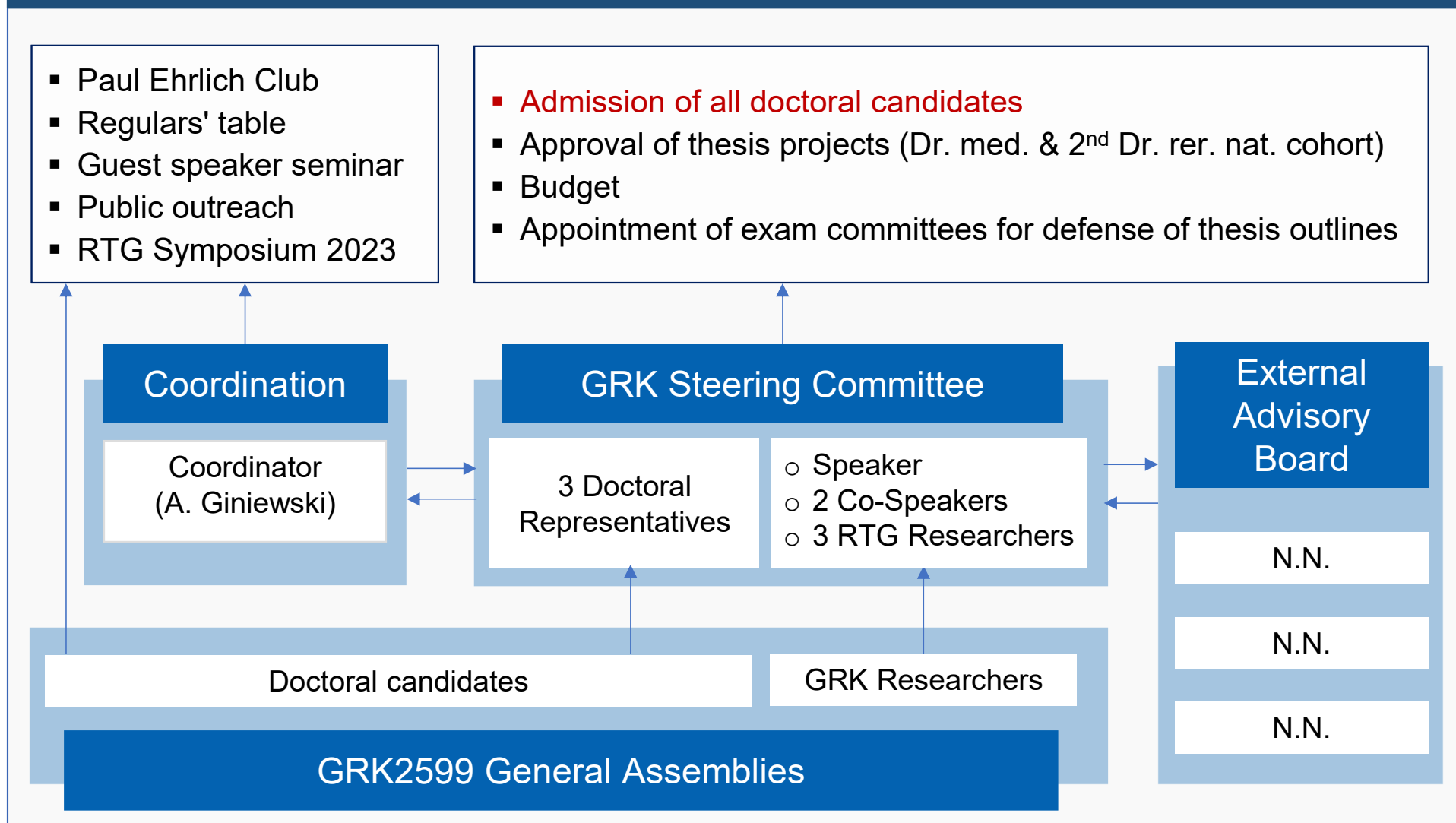
Interview  
Onsite  
**Jan 20**  
(Sat 6- 7 pm)

Start  
**Sept 26**

**2021**

**2022**

## Organization Chart - GRK2599



## MD candidates

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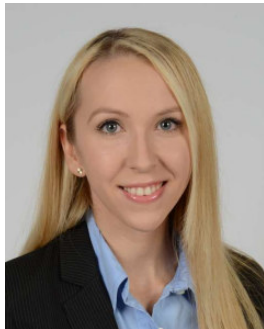
Start  
**Sept 26**

2021

2022

**Dr. Natalie Schröter**

**Koordinatorin**



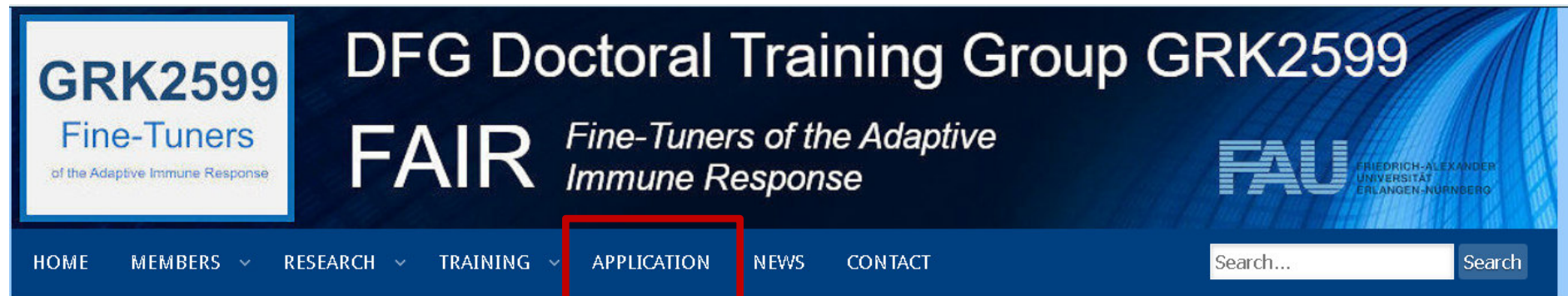
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**Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Jäck**

**Direktor**



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