

# DKFZ Academic Afternoon 2026

*powered by*



GERMAN  
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER  
IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

**Friday 20 March 2026 - Friday 20 March 2026**

**German Cancer Research Center / Communication Center**

## **Mentoring for Postdocs: Science Ambassadors**



DKFZ Postdocs can ask mentoring from **DKFZ Science Ambassadors**. At the occasion of the Academic Afternoon there will be the possibility to meet several for a 10MM (10-minute-mentoring) session.

Check out the full list of Science Ambassadors on

- DKFZ Connect: find them there under their name and/or by filtering under the “mentoring” section
- DKFZ Intranet

Mentoring topics can be

### **Grants**

- Starting collaborations outside my current lab
- Understanding the grant landscape
- Writing my first independent fellowship application
- Dealing with repeated grant rejection
- When and how to develop ideas independent from my supervisor

### **Leadership**

- Time management when I can no longer focus solely on research
- Hiring and managing my first students
- Balancing supervising students with my own productivity
- Building visibility on social media
- Building a reputation at conferences or societies
- Getting invited to review, speak, and collaborate

### **Career Planning**

- Managing family planning decisions
- Navigating dual academic careers (two-body problem)
- Sustaining productivity across a long postdoc
- Dealing with imposter syndrome at the postdoc stage
- Managing the psychological pressure of academic uncertainty

### **Transition preparation**

- Deciding between different types of academic positions (teaching-heavy, research-intensive etc.)
- Understanding tenure and promotion criteria
- Building a coherent CV narrative for an academic job search
- Understanding what search committees look for
- Negotiating a start-up package and lab setup

Group Leader - RNA-Protein Complexes & DKFZ B - Functional and Structural Genomics, Di

Division Head - Coordinator Imaging and DKFZ E - Imaging and Radiooncology, from 20

Willing to help

**Marieke Essers**  
Current PI @DKFZ  
Division Head - Cell and Tumor biology  
DKFZ A - Cell Biology and Tumor Biology, from 20

Willing to help

**Hai-Kun Liu**  
Current PI @DKFZ  
Division Head - Molecular Neurogenetic  
DKFZ A - Cell Biology and Tumor Biology, Schu

Willing to help

**Angelika Feldmann**  
Current PI @DKFZ  
Junior Research Group - Mechanisms of c  
DKFZ B - Functional and Structural Genomics, fr

Willing to help

**Aubry K. Miller**  
Current PI @DKFZ  
Head of Chemistry - Drug Discovery Gro  
DKFZ A - Cell Biology and Tumor Biology, from

It is important to prepare and know which questions you want to discuss with a Mentor. At the Academic Afternoon you will have the opportunity to meet several Science Ambassadors for 10 minutes each (10MM = 10-minute-mentoring).

Please **apply for the Science Ambassador session until March 15, 2016**. We will invite selected postdocs to attend a **preparatory meeting** to further define SMART questions before the event.