

DBM Scientific Spring Retreat 2016

In May 2016, 50 PhD students (and one Master student) stepped away from their benches and set out for the 4th annual DBM PhD retreat.

The retreat is organized by and for PhD students of the International PhD Program in Biomedicine and has been held in different and beautiful locations throughout Switzerland. Participants of all the DBM's four focal areas present their work to fellow PhD students in either a talk or a poster presentation. Apart from the captivating scientific program, students have the opportunity to socialize and get to know people from different DBM locations over the three-day meeting.

This year the retreat was held at the beautiful Hotel Seeblick in Emmetten. The group arrived early and the day was started with a cross-connective game to break the ice. Here, everybody was encouraged to mingle and interview others about their expectations for the retreat, their field of expertise and their favorite aspect of being a PhD student. Looking at the results, it became clear that the participants have many different skills, but shared their expectations for the upcoming days. In addition, there were obviously many different reasons given to love the PhD life.

During the following two days 19 PhD students from immunology, neurobiology, oncology and stem cells and regenerative medicine were giving us insights into their projects in swift 15 minute talks. In between those talks our guest speakers, Dr. Matthias Mehling and Prof. em. Regine Landmann, both held keynote lectures presenting their own research. Dr. Mehling's group is currently working on evaluating lymphocyte migration in patients with Multiple Sclerosis using various interdisciplinary approaches. On the other hand, Professor Landmann, who works on the glycoprotein CD14 in infection models, focused on the most important steps of her scientific work as well as the changes in science that she experienced during her impressive career. Since both talks covered many different areas and aspects of scientific research, the talks were surely intriguing for all the participants, no matter their particular fields of research.

At the end of each day the scientific program was closed with a poster session. Best poster presentations and talks were later awarded with the golden pipette. Congratulations again to the winners!

Best Presentation:

- 1st** Sebastian Piegot
- 2nd** Pascal Forrer
- 3rd** Anna Paczulla

Best Poster:

- 1st** Sandro Nuciforo
- 2nd** Alexander Haumer
- 3rd** Max Mendez

For the evenings the PhD Club also organized a bonfire, an Apéro and a pub quiz that were well received by everyone. As per usual, on the last day of the retreat there were no presentations scheduled so some people set out on a "patriot walk" to the Rütli meadow or a trip by cable car up to the Niederbauen to enjoy a light hike and scenic view over Lake Lucerne.

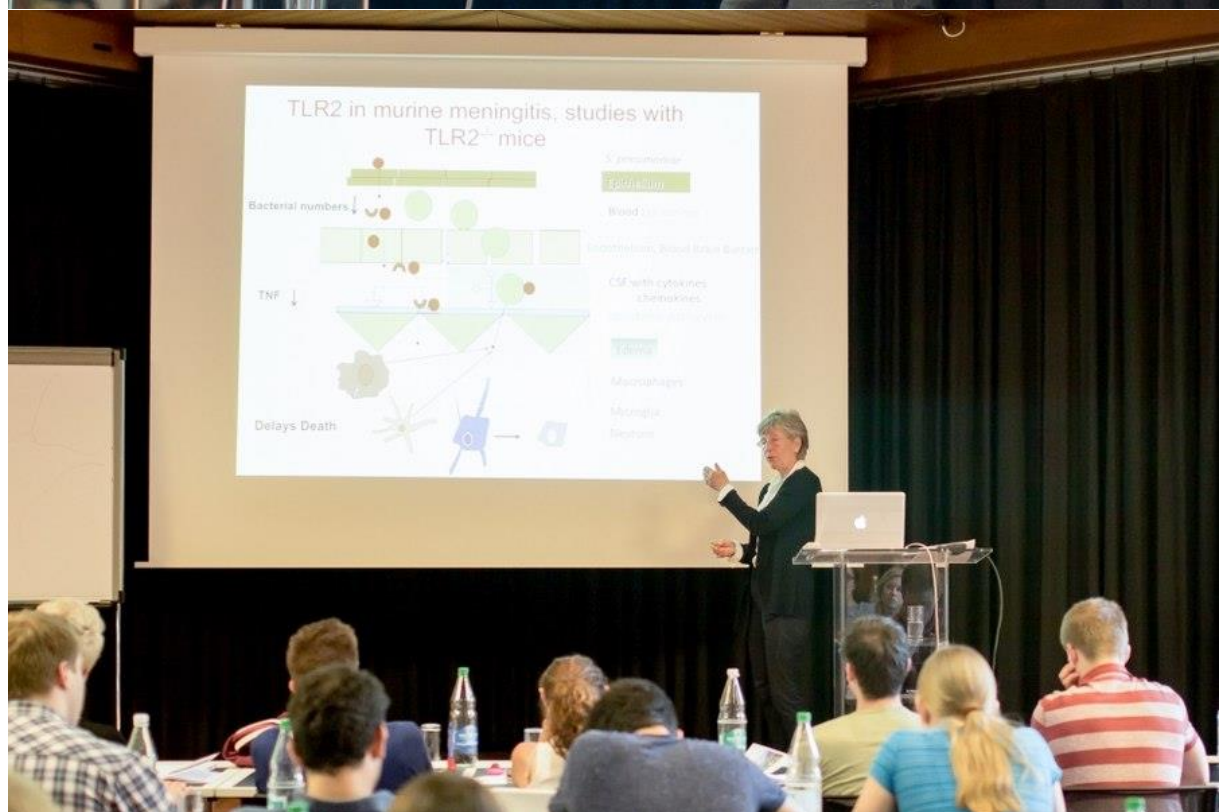
All in all the retreat was a tremendous success and the PhD Club would like to thank each and everyone for making it so enjoyable. We hope everybody got some new inspiration, had many great conversations and maybe made some new friends!

We also want to give a special thank you to Nicole Schären-Wiemers for her support. It is always a pleasure to work with you and we truly value your sincere dedication to the PhD program and us, its students.

It was a pleasure to have all of you at the retreat and we hope to see many of you again next year!

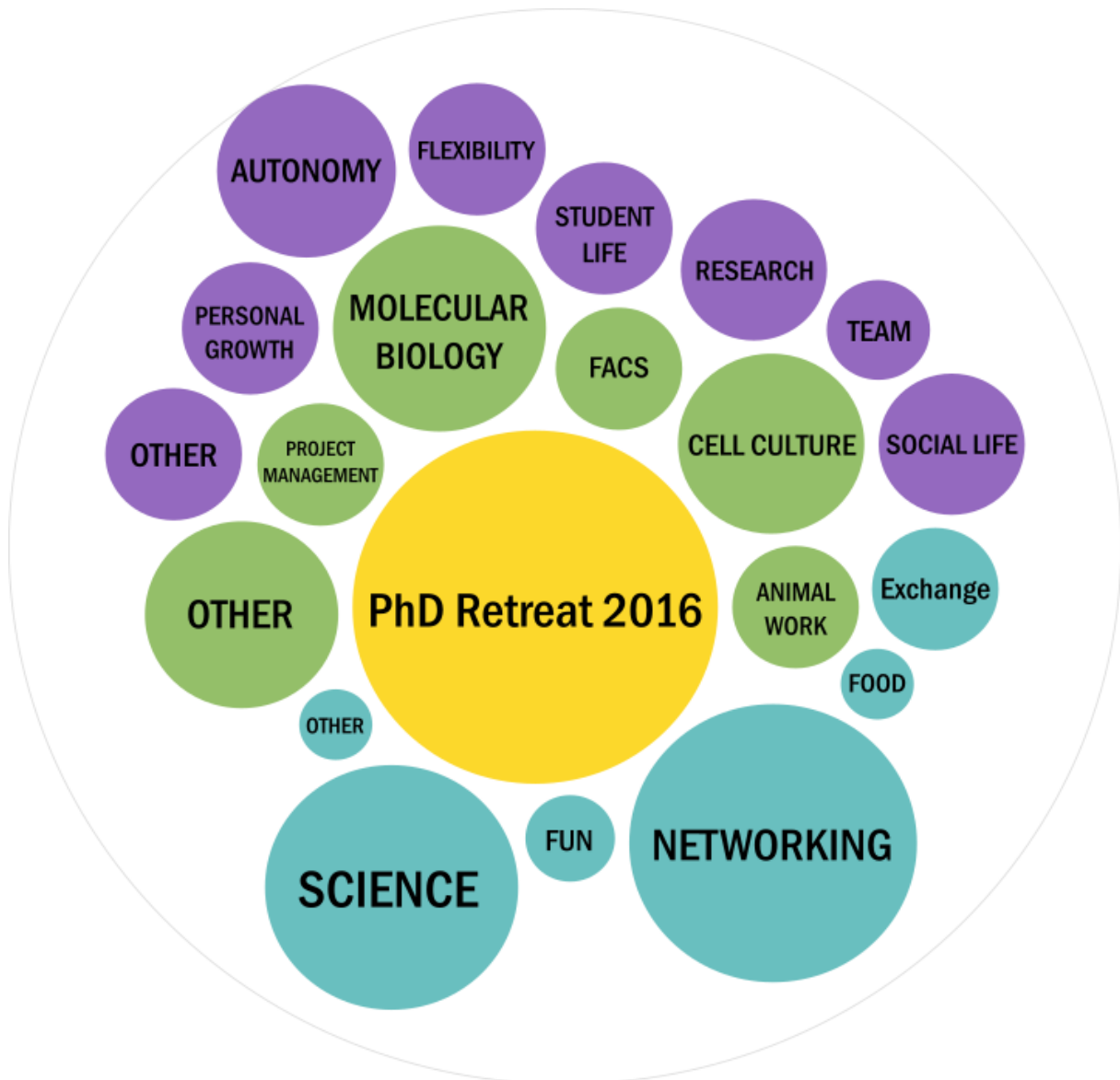
Your PhD club











What are your expectations for the retreat?
What do you like most about being a PhD student?
What are your strengths in the lab?