

Bavarian Biotech News

December 2023

BAVARIAN
BIOTECH CLUSTER
DEVELOPMENT



Innovation

*Tradition
meets*

Bavaria

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Dear Reader,

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to pause and look back on the successes of the Bavarian biotech community.

In a time characterized by change and dynamism, ambitious projects have been implemented and the industry has once again proven itself to be an important player in the region. This is both an incentive and an obligation for us.

We are looking forward to the tasks and challenges ahead in order to drive Bavarian biotechnology forward and continue to celebrate success in the future.

The festive season is just around the corner, and we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful holiday season and time to relax.

May the New Year bring you happiness, health and success.

And now have fun with our year-end Newsletter!

Your Bio^M team



DigiMed Bayern flagship project launches its "Secure Cloud"

The "DigiMed Bayern Secure Cloud" for health data was officially launched in the presence of an expert audience from science, business and politics. It is the jointly developed pilot infrastructure at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre of the [Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities](#).

The DigiMed Bayern flagship P4 medicine project (www.digimed-bayern.de), the symposium and the DigiMed Bayern Secure Cloud offer valuable and tangible approaches for actively shaping the upcoming [European Health Data Space \(EHDS\)](#), for which the EU legislative process is currently underway.

DigiMed Bayern focuses on advancing Germany in the responsible use of health data in scientific, medical and technical aspects. The focus is on how the widespread disease atherosclerosis and its serious consequences, heart attacks and strokes, can be prevented.

The DigiMed Bayern Secure Cloud, which was launched, will not only serve DigiMed Bayern scientists as a research pilot project, but will also provide and develop expertise in the field of secure cloud infrastructures "Made in Germany". [Read more](#)



Hit the buzzer for the official launch of the DigiMed Bayern Secure Cloud for health data: Dr. Moritz von Scheidt, German Heart Centre Munich, Florent Dufour, LRZ & Technical University Munich, AI in Medicine, Vincent Bode LRZ, Dr. Z., LRZ, Dr. Jens Wiehler, Bio^M/ DigiMed Bayern (f.i.t.r). © Bio^M

TUM joins global open source "AI Alliance" of IBM and Meta

The Technical University of Munich (TUM) has joined the "AI Alliance", a global open source initiative by IBM and Meta. This alliance, consisting of over 50 companies, universities and institutions, including renowned names such as the University of California (Berkeley), Yale University and ETH Zurich, aims to make artificial intelligence (AI) transparent and generally accessible.

The [AI Alliance](#) has set itself the goal of shaping the **development of AI responsibly and promoting open source models**. The mission includes the development of open foundation models, efficient software frameworks and tools, and the use of the hardware ecosystem to accelerate new software approaches. [TUM](#) will contribute its expertise in AI-based robotics and knowledge acquisition to the alliance. IBM will contribute its extensive expertise to the development of multimodal base models. An initial cooperation project between [IBM](#) and TUM is to be launched in the coming months, with many more projects between the partners to follow.

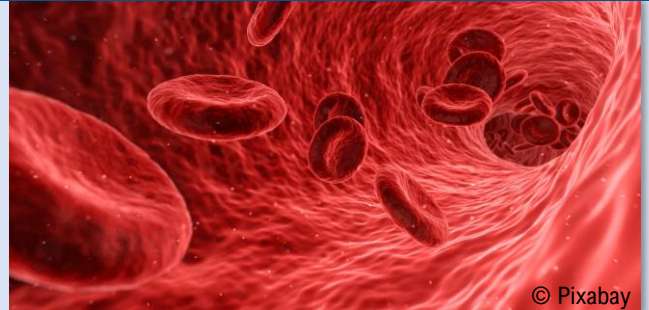
[Read more](#)



Dr. Alessandro Curioni from IBM, Prof. Angela Schoellig, Prof. Daniel Rixen, Prof. Eckehard Steinbach and Prof. Sami Haddadin from the Technical University of Munich
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MorphoSys with positive phase 3 study results in myelofibrosis

MorphoSys AG, Planegg, Germany, announced compelling results from the Phase 3 MANIFEST-2 study evaluating pelabresib, a BET inhibitor in clinical development, in combination with the JAK inhibitor ruxolitinib versus placebo plus ruxolitinib in JAK inhibitor-naïve patients with myelofibrosis.



Myelofibrosis is a form of blood cancer that is difficult to treat and is characterized by **bone marrow fibrosis, an enlarged spleen and anaemia** and often requires regular blood transfusions. The disease leads to considerable physical symptoms such as fatigue, night sweats and pain, which severely impair the quality of life of those affected. Current therapeutic approaches with JAK inhibitors improve individual symptoms but do not address all aspects of myelofibrosis, and only about half of patients achieve adequate symptom control. There is therefore an urgent need for new and more effective treatment options for myelofibrosis patients.

The **MANIFEST-2** study met its primary endpoint with the combination therapy demonstrating a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in the proportion of patients achieving at least a 35% reduction in spleen volume at week 24 (SVR35 response rate of 66% versus 35%).

[Read more](#)

Insempra wins 1.5 million euros in SPRIND competition with circular biomanufacturing concept

Insempra, a Martinsried-based biology-powered company enabling businesses to make superior products with nature, has been elected for €1.5 million in funding from The Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation, SPRIND, in their 2023 circular biomanufacturing challenge for its innovative biomanufacturing prototype, 'BioTreasure'.

Insempra presented its innovative prototype "BioTreasure" for the **SPRIND Circular Biomanufacturing Challenge**, which aimed to develop an end-to-end prototype that processes various carbonaceous waste streams into new products as a continuous

bioproduction process. to demonstrate how carbonaceous waste streams can be processed and fed to microbes as feedstock. It must also demonstrate continuous production over a period of at least 180 days, producing various products using an advanced manufacturing process such as additive manufacturing.

[Read more](#)



Lin Römer, COO, Luisa Gronenberg, VP of Technology Integration & Strain Development and Jens Klein, CEO, Insempra © Felix Adler for SPRIND

Nine medical innovations with disruptive potential: Start-ups presented their ideas at the “Munich Demo Day”

As part of this year's BioTech Bootcamp of [Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH](#) and the life science business incubator [„SmiLe Incubator“](#) from Lund, Sweden, the international, eight-week training program for prospective founders and young companies climaxed in the Munich “Demo Week”.



The BioTech Bootcamp Attendees © Bio^M

Nine teams, aiming to develop and commercialize their biotech business idea, showed in the [IZB](#) on the Martinsried campus what they had learned in the past eight weeks and presented their start-up ideas to a public audience on the final "Demo Day". [GENICITY](#) won the prize, awarded by sponsor [Merck](#): a visit to their Merck M Lab™ Collaboration Center in France. The winner of the [Roche](#) Audience Award was team [RevoBITs](#) who can look forward to participating exclusively at the Founder's Festival Bits & Pretzels HealthTech 2024.

The BioTech Bootcamp is an eight-week hybrid training program that provides European start-up teams with the opportunity to validate and develop their business ideas in the field of therapeutics development with the help of life science experts.

This week, the BioTech Bootcamp climaxed in the on-site week held at Bio^M in Martinsried and the “Munich Demo Day” in the Innovation Centre at the Campus Martinsried. Teams from Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic and Ireland presented their business ideas to the BioM network.

[Read more](#)

Floy secures EUR 5.4 million in seed funding round for AI-powered radiology

The Munich start-up Floy has successfully closed a seed financing round of 5.4 million euros. The financing round was led by HV Capital, with All Iron Ventures and existing investors such as 10x Founders, xdeck Ventures, SB21 and renowned business angels also participating. Floy, a medtech company specializing in artificial intelligence (AI), develops solutions to support radiologists in diagnosis and thus improve the detection of diseases.

[Floy](#)'s technology is already being used by **170 radiology practices** in Germany. It aims to support radiologists in analyzing CT and MR scans, a task

that is of great importance given the more than 25 million scans performed in Germany every year. With the new funding, Floy plans to strengthen its market position in Germany, expand into the EU and the US and drive the development of new AI products. Schneider, who was inspired to found Floy by a personal experience with a knee injury, emphasized the goal of becoming the market standard and highlights the company's unique business model, which offers both medical and economic added value.

[Read more](#)



Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Benedikt Schneider (left) and co-founder and Chief Plumber Leander Märkisch. © Floy GmbH

m⁴ Award: 2.5 million euros for five research teams from Bavaria

The five winners of this year's m⁴ Award pre-founding competition have been announced. Each winning team will receive 500,000 euros for their project to solve urgent medical challenges. The award was announced by Bio^M together with the [Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy](#) on October 24, 2023, at the Munich Residence.



The winning teams convinced the jury with their outstanding biomedical research projects and prevailed among **31 excellent applications** from research institutions throughout Bavaria.

TherVacB from [Helmholtz Munich](#) is developing a **therapeutic vaccine** against hepatitis B, an infectious disease that kills more than 800,000 people worldwide every year.

TUBiRA is also conducting research at [Helmholtz Munich](#). The project influences certain immune cell signals in order to develop **therapeutics against rheumatoid arthritis**, a disease that has so far been difficult to treat.

BugSense from the [Technical University of Munich](#) has established a paper-based test with automatable image analysis for the rapid and reliable **diagnosis of urinary tract infections**. The test is designed to speed up treatment decisions and simplify patient logistics.

Researchers from the [University of the Bundeswehr Munich](#) have developed a **high-resolution microscope** that enables the detection of living cells such as particularly vital sperm. This allows in vitro fertilization to be optimized for success.

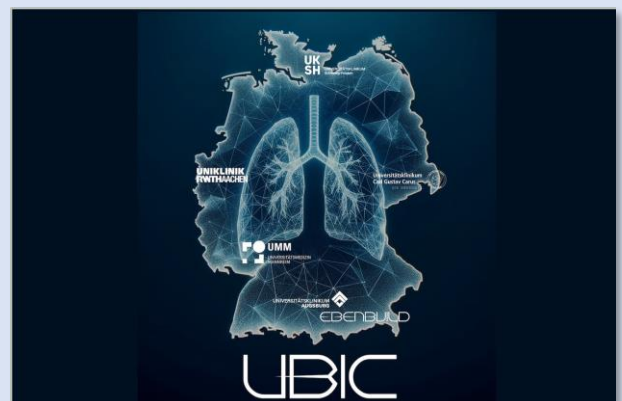
At [Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg](#), **RevoBITs** has constructed the first **smart bio-printer** to produce human tissue models. This could reduce animal testing in medical research and the pharmaceutical industry. [Read more](#)

Ebenbuild and consortium receive EUR 1.8 million in funding

The Munich-based start-up Ebenbuild, together with other partners, is receiving up to 1.8 million euros in funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of the research project "Personalized Lung Twins for the Treatment of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome".

[Ebenbuild](#) develops personalized lung simulation models based on patient-specific data. These so-called digital lung twins are used to improve the treatment outcomes of intensive care patients who are artificially ventilated and suffer from acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

[Read more](#)

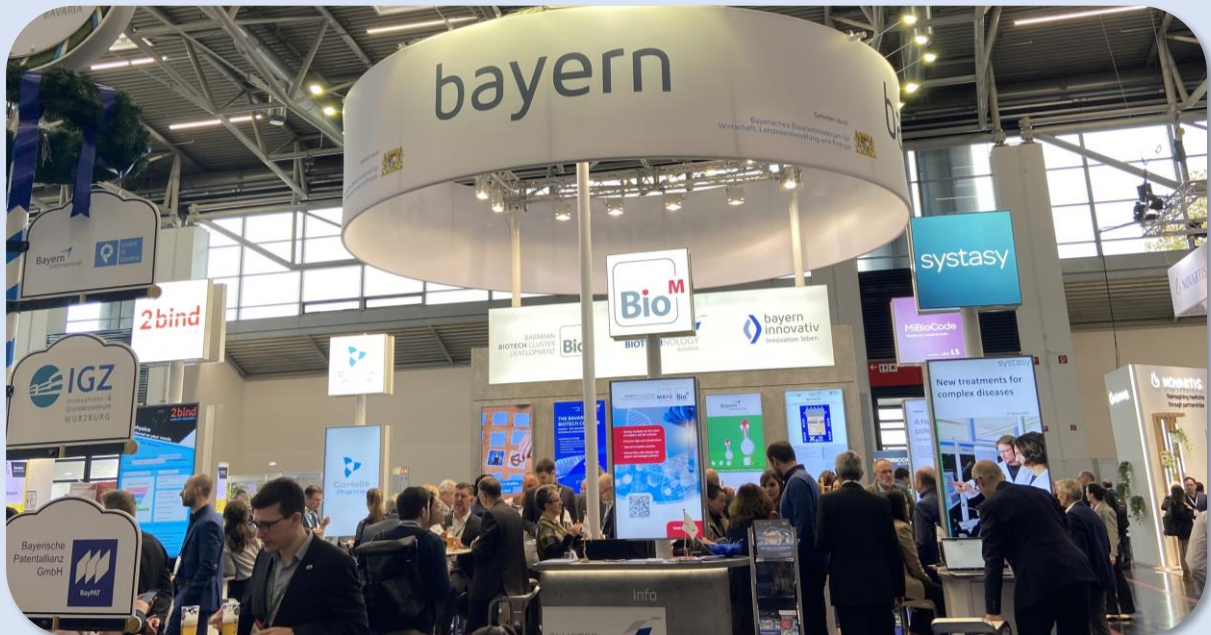


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Bavarian biotech companies at BIO-Europe in Munich

From 6 to 8 November, Bavarian biotechnology showed a strong presence at BIO-Europe in Munich. As the local host of the most important biotech partnering trade fair in Europe, Bio^M, the network organization of the Bavarian biotechnology sector, was delighted to present outstanding developments from over 30 companies at the joint Bavarian booth together

with Bayern Innovativ and to provide a platform for networking and the exchange of ideas. In addition to exciting scientific presentations and discussions, the special potential of Munich as a location and the opportunities for healthcare solutions through the application of artificial intelligence and big data were the main topics of the trade fair. [Read more](#)



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[BIO-Europe Spring](#) | March 18 - 20, 2024 | Barcelona, Spain

[Analytica](#) | April 9 -12, 2024 | Munich, Germany


[Bio International Convention](#) | June 3 - 6, 2024 | San Diego, USA

[Swiss Biotech Day](#) | April 22 - 23, 2024 | Basel, Switzerland

Please find current event information on our website www.bio-m.org/en/events.

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