

Bavarian Biotech News

March 2020



Dear readers,

covid-19 faces science with new challenges and biotechnology innovators are currently the focus of international attention as effective drugs are urgently needed. The research of various institutions, companies and associations is running at full speed. In Germany, to further advance the fight against the new coronavirus, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is now issuing a [call for funding for research into the Sars-CoV-2](#).

Stay healthy, your Bio^M team.



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Ebenbuild – a TOP 50 startup

Ebenbuild was selected by the portal *Für Gründer* on place 8 of the TOP 50 startups 2019.

The Munich based startup Ebenbuild uses computer tomography and artificial intelligence to create a virtual, patient-specific model - a digital twin of the lung. This should enable improved ventilation for lung diseases and optimized therapy for severe respiratory diseases.

Of the total of nine Bavarian teams, five from the health and biotechnology sector made it into the TOP 50, all of them from Munich.

[Read more...](#)

At BioEntrepreneurship Summit 2019 Ebenbuild made the 3rd place at the rising star award of the investment game.



Smart4Diagnostics – an European innovator

Within the new call of the EIC-Accelerator (SME Instrument), Munich-based Smart4Diagnostics GmbH has achieved third place among 1,852 participating companies from all over Europe, Turkey and Israel.

With its world's first digital fingerprint for human blood samples, [Smart4Diagnostics](#) convinced the European Commission and the European Investment Bank. The promised funding of 2.5 million euros will help the company to continue its growth and market access in 2020. First "early adopters" are already planned for early summer.

The EIC Accelerator (SME Instrument) is part of the pilot project of the European Innovation Council (EIC), which supports top-class innovators, entrepreneurs and small companies with financing

options and acceleration services. [Read more...](#)



Prof. Domdey awarded

Prof. Dr. Horst Domdey, Managing Director of Bio^M receives the "Pro meritis scientiae et litterarum" award for mediating between science and business.

Another award winner is Prof. Dr. Szczesny, business economist and Vice President of the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg. The State Ministry of Science and the Arts awards the "Pro meritis scientiae et litterarum" prize every year to outstanding personalities for their services to science and the arts. Minister Bernd Sibler called both award winners luminaries in very different disciplines.



Prof. Domdey (left) with Bernd Sibler © StMWK

Over 10 mio euros for the fight against multi-resistant germs

The Free State of Bavaria is funding the Bavarian research network "New strategies against multi-resistant pathogens by means of digital networking" - bayresq.net with more than EUR 10 million.

The money will go to six interdisciplinary research groups at Bavarian universities for groundbreaking future research in the field of multi-resistant pathogens which is highly relevant to health policy. The aim of the network is to take up new approaches in basic research that address the development of resistance in infectious agents and counteract the spread of resistance.

Scientific director of the project is Bio^M Managing Director Prof. Horst Domdey, managing director of bayresq.net is Dr. Ulrike Kaltenhauser (Gene Center Munich).



Munich: Success with gene scissors against muscle disease

For the first time, an interdisciplinary Munich research team under the leadership of TUM scientists has succeeded in correcting a mutated dystrophin gene in living pigs.

The researchers at Technical University of Munich (TUM), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and Helmholtz Zentrum München were able to cut the defective gene sequence from the DNA of the muscle and heart cells of the animals using modified CRISPR/Cas9 scissors. The results have been published in the journal Nature Medicine.

[Read more...](#)



HelmholtzZentrum münchen

Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt

Regensburg: success with CRISPR/Cas9 for beta-thalassemia

September 2018, the first beta-thalassemia patient was treated with a CRISPR/Cas9 gene therapy at the University Hospital of Regensburg (UKR). End of 2019, a positive summary has been drawn in a first interim balance.

The used genome editing does not correct any of the underlying genetic defects. Instead, an alternative haemoglobin gene is activated, allowing the manipulated cells to produce so-called fetal haemoglobin, which takes over oxygen transport. Another study is ongoing in the area of sickle cell diseases. Similar to beta thalassemia, the formation of haemoglobin is genetically disturbed in sickle cell disease.



Apceth und Medigene

Good news from Munich biotech companies at the beginning of the year draws media attention to a special competence of the location: cell and gene therapy.

One of the "longest serving" companies in Munich, Medigene AG from Martinsried, reported on the impressive success of a clinical study. The company focuses on the development of T-cell directed cancer therapies, in which the patient's own immune system cells (T-cells) are removed and modified in order to fight cancer cells in the patient with better "defences". In a small clinical Phase I/II study with the company's proprietary (autologous) dendritic cell (DC) vaccine in 20 patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the University Hospital of Oslo in Norway, very positive results were obtained. [Read more...](#)

medigene

In order to produce cell and gene therapeutics and make them available to patients, a high degree of regulatory compliance is required. apceth Biopharma with locations in and near Munich is an international recognized company for cell manufacturing. apceth announced in January to commercially produce Zynteglo™, a product of bluebird bio, Inc. Germany is the first country in the world where this treatment is available. Zynteglo™ has conditional marketing approval in the EU as a gene therapy for patients with transfusion-dependent β thalassemia (TDT) and a "non β 0/ β 0 genotype" suitable for hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplantation.

[Read more...](#)





BioEntrepreneur Bootcamp Munich-Oxford 2020

unique incubation programme for biomedical (pre)-seed teams to design and validate their business concepts

The programme runs over a time span of four months: 16 on-site days at the University of Oxford and at Bio^M in Munich, plus two days of on-line sessions, full partnering ticket and pitch at BioEurope 2020 plus a 4-day Bootcamp tour in Europe. Teams are expected to work at least another 16 days off-site on business validation, road maps and pitch presentations. Each team receives a subgrant of **€10.000 to cover travel cost for at least two participants.**

The main goal of the training is to empower participants to turn their invention into a start-up venture and ultimately into an innovation that is successful in the market to improve the life of patients.

Apply until March 30th, 2020!

www.bio-m.org/bootcamp2020



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Bio^M inQlab

we guide you from idea to success

virtual incubator for the future of medicine



Startup Coaching

get hands-on support



BioEntrepreneur Lounge

join the community



Mentor Circle

inspired by experience



BioAngels

find the right investor



Pitch Doctor

how to convince investors



m⁴ Award

create the future of medicine



BioEntrepreneur Bootcamp

validate your business idea



BioEntrepreneurship Summit

connecting the ecosystem

Leading Life Science Clusters of Kawasaki and Munich extend their cooperation agreement

The representatives of the Biotech Cluster Organizations of Munich, Germany, and Kawasaki City, Japan, signed the extension of their Memorandum of Understanding on the promotion of business exchanges on February 11th.

After the first MoU was signed in 2017, a number of successful joint activities followed to initiate and accelerate business cooperation between the life science communities of both regions.

Kawasaki City, with its world-class open-innovation site King Skyfront, and the cluster management organization Bio^M, which

coordinates the Munich and Bavarian Biotechnology Clusters, decided to continue their active cooperation scheme, including matching support for cooperation projects, an exchange of information about each region's new technologies, industry developments and academic potential, and an exchange of best practices in technology transfer and biotech SME support. This will help to identify and strengthen industry-industry and industry-academy partnerships between the two regions. [Read more...](#)



Mr. Tomohiro Takahashi, Director, Coastal Area International Strategy Headquarters, City of Kawasaki (right) and Prof. Dr. Horst Domdey, CEO, Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH © Bio^M

CEBR publishes position paper

The Council of European BioRegions (CEBR) published a position paper to address the major challenges faced by the managers of European life science ecosystems and to prepare possible solutions in coordination with the European Commission.

The [document](#) represents [CEBR's](#) current views on the role and situation of European life science ecosystems, including clusters, industry associations, incubators and industry parks, and how they could be better integrated into a stronger European Research and Innovation framework. Bio^M is a founding member of CEBR and supports the Position Paper of CEBR: "The environment for life science SMEs can be enhanced substantially."



CE4BIG - new EU-funded project

On Februar 1st, the European project CE4BIG, Cluster Excellence for Business Innovation and Growth in the Health Sector, started.



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union

Coordinated by the Atlanpole Biotherapies competitive cluster in Nantes, [CE4BIG](#) federates several healthcare clusters (Bio^M-Germany, BioWin-Belgium, Life Science Klaster Krakow-Poland) with the aims of promoting business growth and raising the innovation capacity of SMEs through targeted activities.



Partners of CE4BIG met in Nantes for the kick-off © Atlanpole Biotherapies



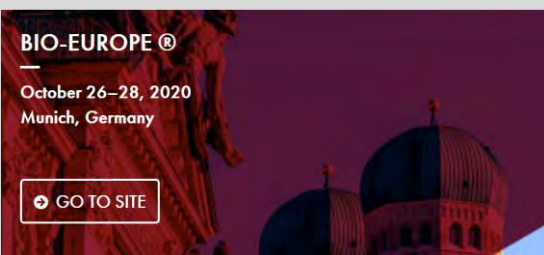
Instead of hosting an in-person format in Paris, **BIO-Europe Spring** will be delivered as a **full digital event** which will take place over the entire week of **March 23–27, 2020**. For further information, please visit [BIO-Europe Spring – Delivered Digitally](#) for a summary of the offerings.



Postponed – new date:
World's Leading Trade Fair for laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology and analytica conference will take place on **October 19 to 22, 2020 | Messe München**



The 2020 **German Biotech Days (DBT)** will take place on **27 and 28 May in Wiesbaden**.



[BIO-Europe 2020](#) **26 – 28 October, Munich**

BIO-Europe, the Partnering Conference of the biotechnology industry will take place in Bavaria's capital

Please find current information on our website. Due to the spread of the covid-19 virus, short-term cancellations can occur.

Contact

Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH
Am Klopferspitz 19a
82152 Martinsried, Munich, Germany

www.bio-m.org
 +49 (0) 89 89 96 790
 info@bio-m.org

Follow us on:

Cluster Information



Dr. Georg Kääh
Kaeueb@bio-m.org

International Affairs



Dr. Stephanie Wehnelt
Wehnelt@bio-m.org

Founders & Investors



Christina Enke-Stolle, Enke-Stolle@bio-m.org,
Angelika Leppert, Leppert@bio-m.org
Dr. Petra Burgstaller, Burgstaller@bio-m.org