

BERTI: a new EU Marie Curie Initial Training Network



Technische Universität München

EU supports young scientists at TUM

International Exchange with 15 partners from Academia and Industry



Press Release

Munich, July 18th, 2013 – the Marie Curie Initial Training Network *BERTI: Biomedical Imaging & Informatics - European Research and Training Initiative* announces the start of a new research programme on Biomedical Imaging & Informatics, which will be coordinated by Prof. Dr. Alois Knoll (TUM; Technische Universität München, Munich/Germany). BERTI is a multi-partner Initial Training Network under the European Union programme FP7-PEOPLE-2013-ITN with a total budget of 3 Mio Euro. The four-year programme aims at providing state-of-the-art research training to 14 PhD candidates at the interface of natural sciences, informatics, engineering and medicine.

Marie Curie Initial Training Networks are highly prestigious awards funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme, focused on the training of the next generation of European leading experts in science to solve interdisciplinary questions of global concern and to increase the European competitiveness in research and development.

Current research in Biomedical Imaging & Informatics is driven by the interaction of natural sciences, informatics, engineering and medicine. Education and training of young scientists is, however, often still centered within only one of these domains, resulting in researchers often acquiring neither the necessary knowledge of clinical needs, nor a sufficient understanding of disciplines beyond Biomedical Imaging & Informatics. Furthermore, young scientists working in Biomedical Imaging & Informatics still face a ‘cultural gap’ between natural sciences, informatics and engineering. Natural sciences achieve innovation by basic research; informatics and engineering approach this through technological applications. However, the traditional separation into disciplines and cultures breaks up once the researcher is faced with biomedical questions. An interdisciplinary education, solid knowledge of areas adjacent to the core research field as well as business competences are therefore the keys to successful, innovative research and excellent science.

BERTI aims at meeting all these requirements. By establishing an interdisciplinary and intersectoral European network of computer scientists, natural scientists, engineers, clinicians and partners from industry, BERTI will meet the objectives of the EU Innovation Union to “attract and train young people to become researchers and offer internationally competitive research careers to keep them in Europe and attract the best from abroad”. Building upon TUM’s *Graduate School of Information Science in Health (GSISH)*, each PhD candidate within the BERTI training programme will be assigned two scientific supervisors as well as a mentor from the research center of the industry partner GE Global Research located at the TUM-Campus Garching, ensuring perfect training for both an academic and an industry career.

This is also reflected by the outstanding doctoral education at the Technische Universität München. With its subject specific and transferable skills training courses, the TUM Graduate School offers PhD candidates the optimal addition to their individual scientific research. Preparing them for a successful career in research and industry, within the TUM Graduate School PhD candidates receive support in their personal development through an exceptional promotion by interdisciplinary and international networks. PhD candidates will not only obtain soft skills such as team leadership and project management skills, but also the entrepreneurial spirit and know how for leading roles in industry, academia and science.

The BERTI objectives will be achieved by a diverse, well-balanced, interdisciplinary and international consortium with well-recognized experience in science, industry and entrepreneurship.



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The partners of the BERTI consortium include numerous national and international partners:



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National Partners:

- TUM Graduate School of Information Science in Health (Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Alois Knoll)
- GE Global Research (Dr. Marion I. Menzel)
- UnternehmerTUM GmbH (Dr. Helmut Schönenberger)
- Klinikum rechts der Isar der Technischen Universität München (Prof. Dr. Reiner Gradinger / Prof. Dr. Peter Henningsen)
- Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V. (Dr. Michael Czisch / Dr. med. Philipp Sämann)
- Helmholtz Zentrum München – Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt GmbH (Prof. Dr. Vasilis Ntziachristos)
- McKinsey & Company, Inc. (Dr. Stefan Biesdorf)
- Bayerische Patentallianz GmbH (Dipl.-Ing. Peer Biskup)
- Vossius & Partner (Dr. Jürgen Meier)
- Scholz and Friends Berlin GmbH (Stefan Wegner)



International Partners:

- *Switzerland:*
Kinderspital Zürich – Eleonorenstiftung (Dr. Ruth O’Gorman / Dipl.-Phys. Beat Werner)
- *France:*
Université de Lorraine (Prof. Dr. Jacques Felblinger)
- *Netherlands:*
Erasmus Medisch Centrum (Prof. Dr. Gerard C. van Rhoon / Dr. M.M. Paulides / Dr. G. Kotek)
- *USA:*
Johns Hopkins University (Prof. Dr. Gregory D. Hager / Prof. Dr. Russell H. Taylor)
Columbia University in the City of New York (Prof. Dr. Elisa E. Konofagou)
- *United Kingdom:*
Cardiff University (Prof. Dr. Derek K. Jones)

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