

PhD students this way, please.

Opening ceremony and scholarship awards of the PIER Helmholtz Graduate School

By *Mirko Siemssen*

With a ceremonial act end of October, the PIER Helmholtz Graduate School symbolically opened its doors for PhD students. In attendance of about 80 invited guests, the Graduate School team particularly welcomed the new scholarship holders of the Joachim Herz Stiftung. Since this year, the PIER Helmholtz Graduate School (PHGS) is the common roof for doctoral training at DESY and the University of Hamburg, and it represents the “E” in PIER, the „Partnership for Innovation, Education and Research“.

who do not only stand out by their professional expertise but also by their social interest and engagement going beyond science. This year, in a multi-level selection process, five excellent young researchers competed against 130 applicants from more than 30 nations: Zhipeng Huang from China, Rajkiran Tholapi from India, Maria Kokkinidou from Greece and Max Rose and Hendrik Schlicke from Germany. “The scholarships give the talented young scientists the opportunity to shape their lives independently and autonomously, thus



The new fellows of the Joachim Herz Stiftung: Zhipeng Huang, Max Rose, Hendrik Schlicke, Maria Kokkinidou (not on the picture: Rajkiran Tholapi). Photo: Marta Mayer/DESY

“The Graduate School is a new and important element of decades of cooperation between both institutions - the University of Hamburg and DESY,” said Claudia S. Leopold, Vice President of the university. DESY Director Helmut Dosch pointed out that already now graduates are much valued by universities, research centres and employers in industry – and this will further increase with the comprehensive PHGS qualification programme. “Indeed, our mixture of research infrastructure and university expertise is unique and it will continuously expand, true to the old Chinese proverb: ‘What does not become better, does not remain good’.”

Under the PHGS roof, the Joachim Herz Stiftung grants several full scholarships every year to outstanding young scientists

strengthening their personal and professional competences,” said Andrea Pauline Martin, vice-chairwoman of the foundation’s executive board.

The PIER Helmholtz Graduate School is funded by the Helmholtz Association, DESY, University of Hamburg and the Joachim Herz Stiftung. First activities include career days for doctoral students, German and English courses, the sponsoring of field trips, research trips and leisure activities which also are meant to promote interpersonal collaboration. “These events are much in demand. This shows us how important a central focusing of such activities is”, said Robin Santra, spokesman of the PHGS.

Photon Science Users’ Meeting 2014

The next DESY Photon Science Users’ Meeting “Research with Synchrotron Radiation and FELs” will take place on 30-31 January 2014 in conjunction with the European XFEL Users’ Meeting which will take place on 29-31 January 2014. Both meetings will be held on the DESY campus in Hamburg. The three-day event comprises sessions on research with free-electron lasers (FELs) and synchrotron radiation sources, satellite workshops, and a joint DESY Photon Science-European XFEL poster session on Friday (31st) afternoon, which will be accompanied by a vendor exhibition. Register at:

<http://photon-science.desy.de/usersmeeting>

Two-million-Euro grant for molecule tamer

For his work on the control of complex molecules, Jochen Küpper from the Hamburg Center for Free-Electron Laser Science (CFEL) was granted two million Euros by the European Research Council (ERC). The council supports Küpper’s project “Controlling the Motion of Complex Molecules and Particles” (COMOTION) through an ERC Consolidator Grant for five years starting in early 2014. The aim of the project is to develop methods to control, e.g., to transport, to sort, and to align complex molecules like peptides and proteins, but also larger objects, such as virus particles or picoplankton.

Congratulations on 45 years of service

In October, Christian Stegmann congratulated two Zeuthen employees celebrating their 45th anniversary at the institute: Olaf Gräber (centre) from the electronics group and Siegfried Schulze (right) from the technical infrastructure group. Both started to work at the Institut für Hochenergiephysik IfH, which in 1992 became the second location of DESY.



Photo: Christine Iezzi/DESY