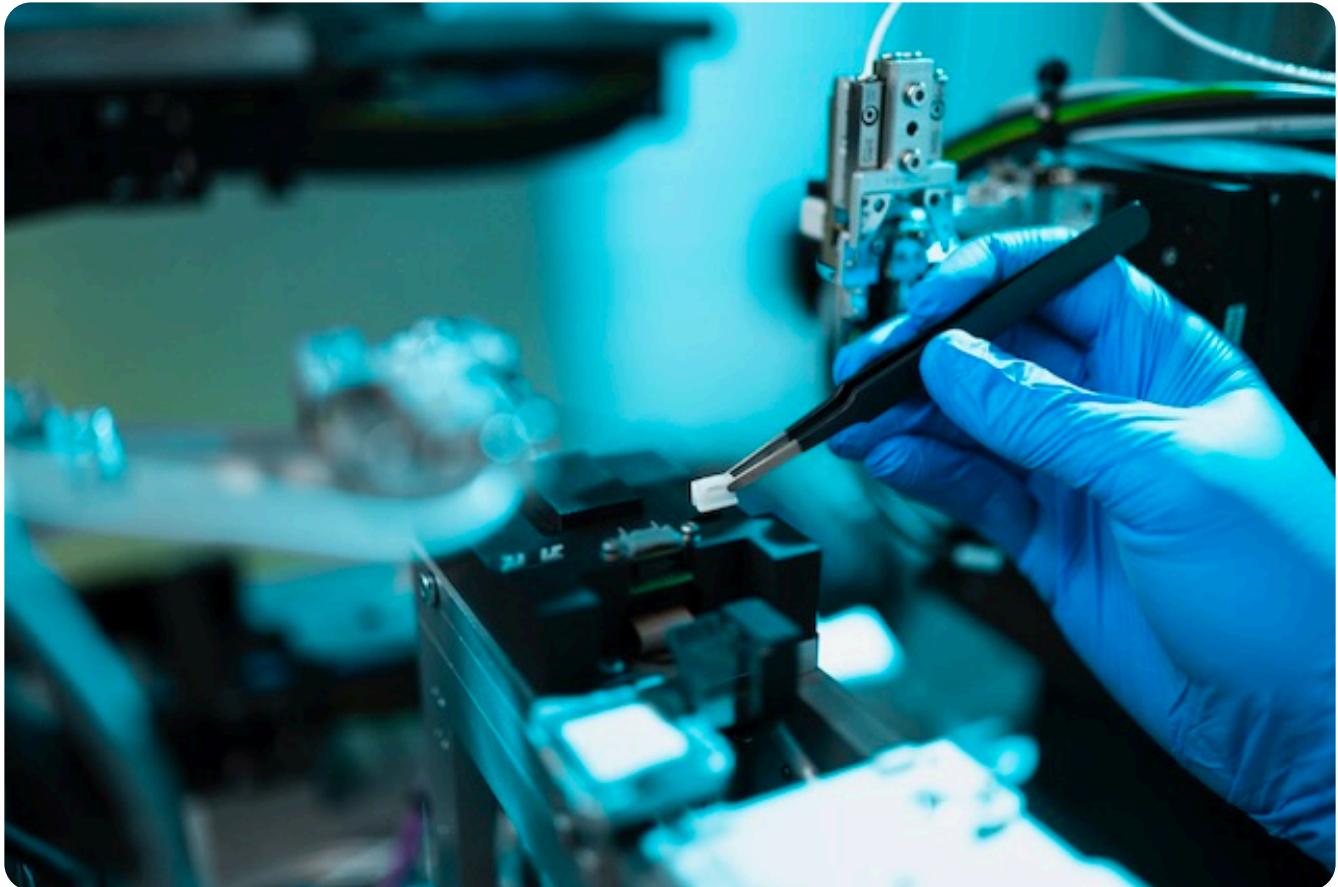




# Optogenetic Therapies

January 2026

# NEWSLETTER



Dear readers,

We wish you a successful and healthy New Year and hope that together we will achieve our goals.

The newsletter will keep you informed about the latest news on a monthly basis. We also welcome suggestions from you. The mailing list is large, so we can reach a lot of people.

Your

Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Optogenetic Therapies

Represented by Tobias Moser, Emilie Macé and Tobias Brügmann



Credit: DPZ/Karin Tilch

## NEWS -

### UMG/DPZ Press release

Dr. Patrick Jendritza, formerly postdoc at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, USA, has been awarded a junior fellow position at the Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Optogenetic Therapies at Göttingen University Medical Center.

**Read more →**



Credit: Privat/Nils Peters

# ADDITIONAL FUNDING

## for MHH, Hannover

Dr. Martin Bentler, postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Hildegard Büning of EKFZ partner Hannover Medical School, has successfully applied for an additional funding (seed funding). The PhD student Annika Strauß will support the goals of EKFZ with the seed fund project entitled “Engineering hypoimmunogenic next-generation AAV vectors for gene and optogenetic therapy”.

**Go to MHH →**



Credit: UMG/EKFZ Academy

# ACADEMY WORKSHOP

on December 2025

In November and December, the EKFZ Academy hosted two workshops dealing with the regulations and guidelines for the safe, effective and high-quality manufacture and testing of medicinal products.

**Read more →**



## FRAUNHOFER ITMP

### Are you planning to conduct early phase I/ II clinical trials?

The Early Clinical Trial Unit (ECTU) of the Fraunhofer Institute for Translational Medicine and Pharmacology ITMP was established in cooperation with the UMG to create a platform for conducting early clinical phase I/ II studies. The unit has all the necessary personnel and infrastructure resources for conducting early clinical trials in a wide range of different indications.

**Read more →**



## NEW MEMBERS

At its last meeting, the EKFZ Executive Board appointed further associate members for the center:

- Dr. Oliver Barnstedt, UMG
- Dr. med. Tobias Dombrowski, UMG
- Dr. med. Nina Gliem, UMG
- Prof. Dr. Constantin Pape, UNI Göttingen
- Anne Petzold, Ph.D., UMG
- PD Dr. med. Christoph van Riesen, UMG
- Prof. Dr. med. Ali Seif, UMG
- Prof. Dr. Fabian Sinz, UNI Göttingen

**See more →**



Credit: UMG/FSK

## NEW STAFF

### Dr. Feros Bator

We welcome Dr. Feros Bator as a Clinician Scientist at the center. Dr. Bator will conduct his research in Prof. Emilie Macé's research group, team II, from January 1st to December 31st, 2026.

**Contact details →**



Credit: Private

## NEW STAFF

### Mohamad Mersalli

Mohamad Mersalli joined the Center on January 1st, 2026 as Head of Quality Management & Regulatory Affairs, Medical Devices Division. We are delighted that he will be contributing his many years of experience in this highly complex field.

**Contact details →**



Credit: Private/Jonathan Michaeli

## NEW STAFF

### **Sarina Tepan**

Sarina Tepan started work as an Administrative Assistant on January 1st, 2026, and supports the spokesperson team and coordination. She will also support the teams and platforms in financial matters, etc.

**Contact details →**



## NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Previous newsletters can be found on the EKFZ website under Downloads.

**View archive →**



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