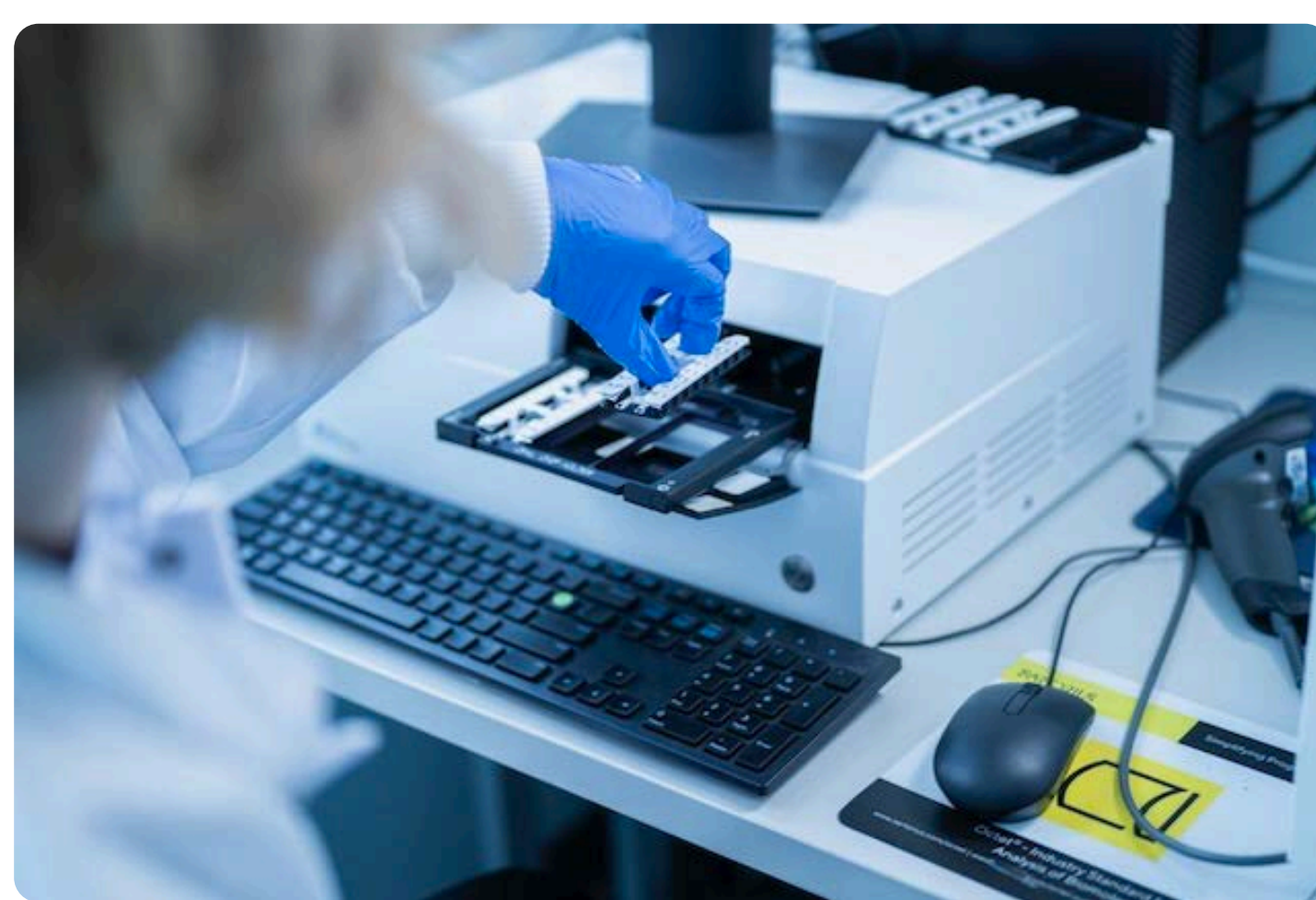


April 2026

NEWSLETTER



Dear readers,

With this newsletter, we would like to inform you about the latest news from the Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Optogenetic Therapies. We also welcome suggestions and contributions, which can be distributed among our members and associated partners.

Your

Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Optogenetic Therapies
Represented by Tobias Moser, Emilie Mace and Tobias Brüggemann

GENETICALLY MODIFIED MARMOSETS AS A MODEL FOR HUMAN DEAFNESS



© DPZ/Katharina Diederich

Why are some people unable to hear from birth, even though their inner ear appears intact? One possible cause lies in the so-called OTOF gene. It plays a central role in transmitting sound signals from the hair cells to the auditory nerve. Without this function, acoustic information does not reach the brain. Researchers from the German Primate Center – Leibniz Institute for Primate Research in close cooperation with the University Medical Center Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences have now, for the first time, generated marmosets in which this gene has been knocked out precisely. The animals are healthy and develop normally, but are deaf from birth. This provides the first primate model that realistically replicates key characteristics of human deafness (Nature Communications).

[Read more →](#)



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NEW ASSOCIATED INVESTIGATOR

The EKFZ board has appointed Prof. Rüdiger Behr as a new Associated Investigator. He is the head of the platform "Stem Cell Biology and Regeneration" at the German Primate Center. The Platform works on fundamental questions of stem cell biology, embryonic development and primate reproduction.

[Visit website of R. Behr →](#)

SCIENCE GOES CITY Countdown: 3..2..1



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April 19th, 2026, 12:00 - 18:00
Under the motto "Science goes City," Göttingen's downtown area transforms into a huge interactive zone where visitors can participate, experiment, and marvel.

[View program →](#)

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Generation of marmoset monkeys with a non-mosaic disruption of the OTOF gene as a model of human deafness. Nature Communications. March 2026.

Real-Time MRI With Deep Learning for Efficient Evaluation of Neuromuscular Breathing Impairment. MedComm. February 2026.

Evaluation of Dysphagia in Myositis and Muscular Dystrophy Using Real-Time MRI and Quantitative Muscle Ultrasound. J Cachexia Sarcopenia Muscle. March 2026.

A transition-prone brain state precedes spontaneous behavioral switching. bioRxiv. March 2026.

Arousal elicits a brain-wide hemodynamic wave independent of locus coeruleus noradrenergic tone. bioRxiv. March 2026.

[Read more →](#)

ACADEMY PROGRAM



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The Academy regularly offers expert lectures and workshops.

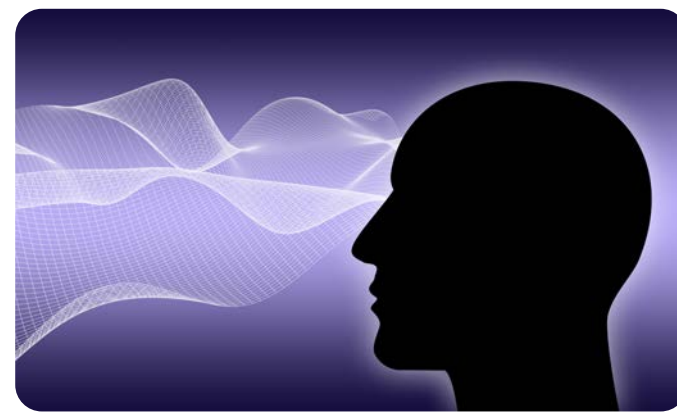
April 22nd, 2026: Dr. Sabine Hauck, Medical Devices – Quality and Approval at a Glance

May 6th, 2026: Lecture by Stuart Trenholm, PhD McGill University, Montréal

May 20th, 2026: Factory tour at Sartorius - Sartorius Campus

[Read more →](#)

IdeenEXPO 2026 HANNOVER



At IdeenExpo 2026, you can experience technology and the natural sciences in a truly unique way, try your hand at hands-on experiments, and learn more about the world of MINT careers!

The **MBExC** and **EKEZ** will be a part of this event.

[Read more →](#)



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SAVE THE DATE: October 15th and 16th, 2026

Universität Freiburg - BrainLinks-BrainTools

International Symposium on Sensorimotor Transformation

[Read more →](#)

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



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

[See more →](#)