

August 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 Macé, Maria-Patapia Zafeiriou and Kathrin Kusch



© Privat: Johannes Vierock

ELSE KRÖNER PROFESSORSHIP FOR OPsin ENGINEERING

New Else Kröner Professorship in Opsin Engineering accelerates the development of Optogenetic Therapies at the University Medical Center Göttingen.

Prof. Dr. Johannes Vierock has accepted the Else Kröner Professorship for Opsin Engineering at the Institute for Auditory Science, University Medical Center Göttingen, effective on August 1st, 2026.

[EKfZ: Read more →](#)



© Photo: UMG/EKfZ/Ideenexpo

IDEEN EXPO HANNOVER

What do you do when curious teenagers want to know how you can hear with light? You pack up your cochlear implant model and head to the IdeenExpo in Hannover!

Together with the MBExC – Cluster of Excellence Multiscale Bioimaging and the CRC 1690, the EKfZ set up a booth there from June 20-28, 2026. Between young researchers, curious students, and equally interested teachers, some fascinating conversations about hearing and medicine took place.

[Read more →](#)

DAY OF SENSES

The EKfZ is taking part in the "Day of Senses" on September 27, 2026.

We are joining the CRC 1690 "Disease Mechanisms and Functional Restoration of Sensory and Motor Systems" for the Day of senses". The event's goal: visitors of all ages can experience the human senses (hear, vision, smell, taste, touch) up close – with hands-on activities and insights into current research on sensory perception. It's a low-threshold, family-friendly science event.

When?

September 27, 2026

From 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where?

Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences, City Campus Hermann-Rein-Straße 3, 37075 Göttingen

[EKfZ: Read more →](#)



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SURVEY ON INNER EAR GENE THERAPY

Together with the Institute for Auditory Neuroscience and the Department of Otolaryngology at University Medicine Göttingen, the EKfZ is conducting an online survey on inner ear gene therapy.

The survey aims to explore under what conditions patients would be willing to participate in a future gene therapy study – particularly when the treatment offers no immediate personal benefit but primarily contributes to scientific knowledge.

Conducted in collaboration with "Die Schnecke," the magazine of the German Cochlear Implant Society, the survey is available at the following link:

[Read more →](#)



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LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Laurence, Dorothea et al., Deep learning for interactive and automated inner retinal layer segmentation in OCT images of patients with retinitis pigmentosa using limited training data. Med Rxiv. Preprint

[Read more →](#)



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EKfZ ACADEMY QMS Workshop

The EKfZ-Academy hosted on June 18th, 2026 a workshop on "Implementing a Quality Management System (QMS) for Combination Products".

Fenja Hanneken and Mohamad Mersalli of the Quality Management & Regulatory Affairs team addressed when and how university spin-offs developing medical devices or gene therapies should establish a Quality Management System.

The session covered quality requirements for both product types and the challenges of aligning regulatory demands with academic structures, closing with an informal Q&A over ice cream.

[Read more →](#)



EKfZ LECTURES

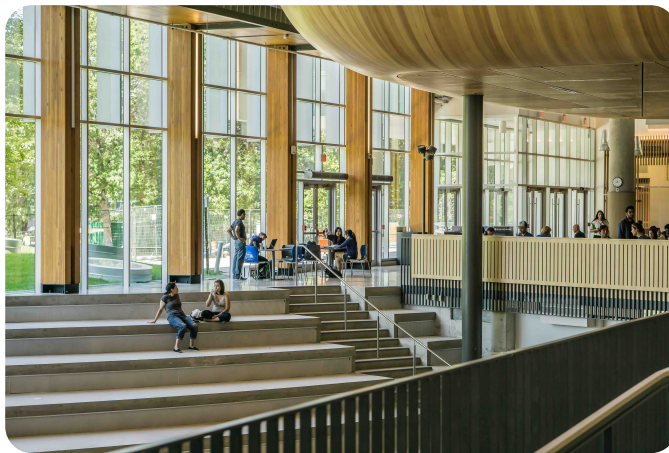
September 9th, 2026, 4:00 pm

Dr. Rachael Richardson

The University of Melbourne

Combining optogenetics and electrical stimulation for precise control of neural modulation

[Read more →](#)



JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

We are looking for:

Software/Electronic Engineer (m/f/d) for the Institute for Auditory Science Göttingen

PhD student (m/f/d) for Team IV, Visual Circuits & Interfaces group, Dr. Patrick Jendritza.

[View more →](#)



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