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DEAR READERS,

The year 2017 Heidelberg University continued its strong hold as the Times and Shanghai Rankings 2017 placed Heidelberg University at number 42 and 45 internationally, seven ERC consolidator grant winners and other prestigious research awards and prizes bestowed on scientists across the university. The scientific research excellence continued with the scientists at Heidelberg University making outstanding discoveries and funded research projects.

In India the year was equally exciting with HCSA expanding Indo-German research collaborations, including Agreement between Heidelberg Institute for Gerontology and United Nations India, launch of Heidelberg India Research Internship Platform (HEIIN), exchange programme networks and organizing Indo-German events of significance. Also, HCSA introduced initiatives to improve visibility and awareness of the University. The upward trend continued with scientific delegation visits, expansion of existing 'Guest lecturer Programme' with three scientists from Heidelberg accepting to teach in India.



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Mr. Radu Carciumaru
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IGP SPRING SCHOOL 2017: FEBRUARY 20–22

Indo German Partnership in Higher Education Programme between Heidelberg University and Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) was launched in November 2016. An Indo-German Spring School titled »Perspectives on an Age Friendly Culture: Concepts and Methods« was organised at Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) from 20 to 22 February 2017. The format of the school was lectures followed by film screenings and discussions. [\[read more\]](#)

IGP WORKSHOP 2017: FEBRUARY 23–24

Indo German Partnership in Higher Education Programme between Heidelberg University and Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) was launched in November 2016. An Indo-German Workshop titled, »Ageing and Residence« was organised at JNU. The format of the workshop was lectures and field trips. [\[read more\]](#)

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY AT GERMAN STUDY & RESEARCH EXPO INDIA 2017: FEBRUARY

Heidelberg Centre South Asia participated at the German Study and Research Expo in India, which took place in Delhi (February 17-19) and Hyderabad (February 21-23). Organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and also known as the GATE fair, the event represents the largest of its kind and offered a unique opportunity for the university to provide first-hand information of postgraduate courses, PhD programmes, research opportunities, admission procedures, scholarships, etc.

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/EXCLUSION IN SOUTH ASIA, MARCH 22–23

The Branch Office of the South Asia Institute in New Delhi jointly with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS, Mumbai) conducted a two-day workshop on »Social Inclusion/Exclusion in South Asia«. The workshop was supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung South Asia and took place on 22nd & 23rd March 2017 at the Library Conference Hall, TISS. [\[read more\]](#)

HEIDELBERG INDIA RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PLATFORM (HEIIN), APRIL 10

Under the aegis of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Heidelberg Centre South Asia (the Branch Office of the Heidelberg University in New Delhi) officially launched the Heidelberg India Research Internship Platform (HEIIN). The launch took place on April 10, 2017 at the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH). The Vice-President of the Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Dieter Heermann, inaugurated the platform. [\[read more\]](#)

INDIA-GERMANY DST-DFG JOINT CALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

The DST-DFG Joint Proposal on »Magnetic and dielectric studies on the room temperature magnet SrRu₂O₆ and its doped variants« by Prof. Ruediger Klingeler, KIP and Prof. Sunil Nair, IISER Pune has been recommended. This lays the foundation for a structured Indo-German collaboration between the two institutes and paves way for bigger future initiatives.

DFG GRANT INITIATION OF COOPERATION HITS/IWR AND IGIB

In an initiation grant funded by DFG, Dr. Frauke Graeter from Heidelberg University and Lipi Thukral from CSIR-IGIB, proposed to work on stress propagation in biological membranes. Biological membranes are strikingly heterogeneous, composed of diverse lipid mixtures with distinct chemical structure and composition. In this project, molecular dynamics simulations and the newly developed Lipid-Force Distribution Analysis (L-FDA) are combined, to explore force transmission in complex multi-component membrane models mimicking eukaryotic organelles. This molecular stress analysis has far-reaching implications in describing the relationship between membrane mechanical properties and functional states of chemically distinct lipids.



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WORKSHOPS ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MAY – JUNE 2017

Shimla, May 2017: New and better ways can make urban centres »smart« in their operations with particular focus on sustainability. This viewpoint emerged during a two-day workshop on »Smart City 2017« organised in Shimla on May 19 & 20, 2017. The workshop was organised and coordinated by the Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF). Other partners included School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), the Indian Institute of Architects (Shimla Chapter), the German House for Research and Innovation (DWH) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

Coimbatore, June 2017: Creation of opportunities for pro-active participation of citizens in city designing and management, and adoption of an ecologically sensitive planning and design approach can help in developing smart and sustainable cities. The case of Coimbatore was discussed in a workshop on smart cities organised on 6 and 7 June 2017 under the umbrella of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWH) by the Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF). Other partners included Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA Coimbatore Chapter) and the Bavarian-Indian Centre (BayIND).

SUCCESSFUL EU ERSAMUS+ APPLICATION, JUNE 2017

Göttingen University, Heidelberg University, and University of Cologne Branch Offices New Delhi SWAGATA Consortium's application for Key Action 1 – Mobility for Individuals (KA108) – within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme has been successful. SWAGATA consists of three comprehensive German Universities – University of Cologne, University of Göttingen and Heidelberg University and is coordinated by University of Göttingen.

INDO-GERMAN COOPERATION IN GERONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AUGUST 2017

Heidelberg gerontologists led by Prof. Dr Andreas Kruse want to cooperate with the Indian representation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The aim is to intensify knowledge exchange between Europe and Asia in the field of gerontology. Diego Palacios, director of the UNFPA office in India, and Prof. Kruse, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Heidelberg University, have signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect in New Delhi. [\[read more\]](#)



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PROF. COMBA AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AT IIT MUMBAI

Prof. Peter Comba, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Heidelberg University has been invited to join Department of Chemistry, IIT Bombay (IITB) as a distinguished visiting professor for the year 2017. During his stay at IITB, he delivered a series of lectures on coordination chemistry to IITB graduates students. He also delivered several research seminars and fostered his scientific collaboration with various groups in IITB.

PROF. HARISH NARAINIDAS DAAD GUEST PROFESSOR AT SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

Prof. Harish Narainidas, professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Adjunct Professor at the University of Iowa was the DAAD Guest Professor at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University during the summer term of 2017. [\[read more\]](#)

PROF. SAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY BADEN WUERTEMBERG FELLOW AT SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

Dr. Sayan Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur was the DAAD Guest Professor at the Department of Modern Indology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University during the summer term of 2017. [\[read more\]](#)

PROF. DR. V. K. KAPOOR'S BOOK RELEASE

Prof. Dr. V.K. Kapoor, Senior Professor and renowned surgeon, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) authored a book titled 'Acute Pancreatitis An A-Z' which has been published by CRC Press (Taylor and Francis Group). The book is dedicated to Late Prof Christian Herfarth, his host at University of Heidelberg in 1991. [\[read more\]](#)

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY NEWS

AWARD FROM THE CHICA AND HEINZ SCHALLER FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENT YOUNG SCIENTIST

The Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation is honouring an excellent young Heidelberg-based scientist: The award, endowed with 100,000 Euros in research funding, goes to Dr. Matthias Fischer of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research. The foundation thereby recognises his pioneering research on virus-host interactions in eukaryotic cells. [\[read more\]](#)

CENTER FOR MOTION RESEARCH BEGINS WORK AT UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

With the support of the Carl Zeiss Foundation, an interdisciplinary center for motion research took up its work at Heidelberg University on 1 February of this year. As part of the foundation's programme for the advancement of infrastructure, the new research facility is receiving funding in the amount of 800,000 euros over a four-year period. [\[read more\]](#)

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AT THE CLUSTER »ASIA AND EUROPE«

The Cluster »Asia and Europe« offers a mobility-option for students of the M.A. Transcultural Studies as a possibility to spend time abroad. Therefore, students in the third semester have the opportunity to go to a different country for a research internship or study exchange to develop their own ideas or collect research data for the master's thesis. [\[read more\]](#)



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BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG FOUNDATION FUNDS RESEARCH PROJECT ON PROTEIN AGGREGATION

Heidelberg molecular biologist Prof. Dr Bernd Bukau has been awarded a grant of approximately 280,000 euros from the Baden-Württemberg Foundation for a research project on the neurodegenerative disorder of Parkinson's disease. The project is a continuation of the previous work by Prof. Bukau and his team on the dissolution of protein aggregates that are responsible for a number of different diseases, including Alzheimer's. [\[read more\]](#)

DFG FUNDING: AN ATOM TRAP FOR WATER DATING

A Heidelberg physics project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) will focus on a new type of dating method for use in the earth and environmental sciences. The research team will deploy a special radioactive isotope of the noble gas argon (Ar) for the purpose of water dating. This isotope is useful for determining age in the range of 50 to 1,000 years.

[\[read more\]](#)

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH

Three working groups from Heidelberg, Cologne and Potsdam are involved in a joint project to develop a new technology for astronomical research. The researchers intend to render micro-optic systems used in telecommunications suitable for use in large telescopes. The collaborative project is being supported by the Königstuhl State Observatory of the Centre for Astronomy of Heidelberg University, the Institute of Physics I of the University of Cologne, and the Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics in Potsdam. [\[read more\]](#)

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY AWARDED FUNDING FOR TWO COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES

DFG grants approximately 20 million euros for both new research units. Heidelberg University succeeded in gaining support from the German Research Foundation (DFG) in the latest approval round, winning funding for two major collaborative research centres. Researchers in the natural sciences, life sciences and medicine will investigate the function of a fundamental signaling pathway in the »Mechanisms and functions of WNT signaling« CRC (CRC 1324).

[\[read more\]](#)

NEW COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTER ON A FUNDAMENTAL SIGNALING PATHWAY IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE

A new Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) will investigate the function of a fundamental cellular signaling pathway. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the CRC will start its work at Heidelberg University. After successful review, the DFG approved approximately 8,5 million euros in funding for the next four years. Prof. Dr Thomas Holstein of the Centre for Organismal Studies (COS) is the spokesperson for CRC 1324, »Mechanisms and functions of WNT signaling«. [\[read more\]](#)



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PHOTO EXHIBITION ON GLACIER MELTING AT AMITY UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY

Jamia Millia Islamia University organizes Professor Dr. Marcus Nuesser's Exhibition on »Environmental Change on a Himalayan scale« The exhibition consists of a collection of bi-temporal comparisons, between historical photographs, paintings or maps and repeated photographs, satellite imagery and topographic maps, which will visualize the environmental changes on a Himalayan scale. Examples will be shown from the Nanga Parbat area in the northwestern Himalayas, over Ladakh and Nepal to Sikkim.

IGP, »NEW DIRECTIONS IN ACTIVE AGEING AND AGE FRIENDLY CULTURE IN INDIA AND GERMANY« – WINTER SCHOOL »IMAGES OF AGE AND AGEING« 10–13 OCTOBER, HEIDELBERG AND MANNHEIM

Indo German Partnership in Higher Education Programme between Heidelberg University and Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) was launched in November 2016. In October 2017 an Indo-German Winter School is organised by Prof. Kruse, titled, « Images of Age and Aging«. A team of eight professors and students from JNU will be participating in the school in addition to professors and students from Heidelberg. The school format includes lectures, visits and participation in European Film Festival for Generations.

HEIDELBERG-INDIA JOINT GRADUATE PROGRAMME ON BIG DATA RESEARCH

The proposed Joint Graduate Programme has partner institutions, BioQuant and IWR from Heidelberg and IITs viz. Guwahati, Kanpur and Madras, and universities viz. JNU, Delhi University and Allahabad University. The programme is funded by DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, India and Heidelberg University. The MoU would be signed this Autumn.

6TH HEIDELBERG LECTURE BY PROF. DIETER W. HEERMANN

Dieter W. Heermann, Vice-President and Professor of Theoretical Physics at Heidelberg University will deliver the 6th Heidelberg Lecture in New Delhi on 26th October. His lecture titled, »How Entropy Shapes the Genome« will see participation from various leading universities and research institutions in India.

DELEGATION FROM TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS) TO HEIDELBERG

A five member delegation from International Relations, Administration and Library of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) will be visiting International Office, Heidelberg and SAI in February 2018. The aim is exchange of knowhow, knowledge transfer and internalisation.

GUEST RESEARCHER AT INSTITUTE OF GENOMICS AND INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY (IGIB)

In continuation of the work on DFG project on stress propagation in biological membranes, Dr. Csaba Daday, Postdoc from Dr. Frauke Graeter lab will further continue to work on impact of forces in biological system at Dr. Thukral's lab in CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi. The work will include hands-on working sessions conducted by Dr. Daday. The work will directly advance our understanding of how atomic fluctuations contribute to extensive mechanical-based cellular processes.

GUEST LECTURER AT MUMBAI UNIVERSITY

Mr. Dominik Hetjens, German Studies, University of Heidelberg will teach for a semester at the Department of German, Mumbai University under Heidelberg-India Partnership Programme. In addition to this he provides assistance to students at the Department with their written assignments and contributes in Departmental seminars and conferences.