

## Peter Baumann elected as EMBO member

**Mainz, 12 June 2019.** *Professor Peter Baumann has been elected as an EMBO Member, joining a group of more than 1,800 top researchers in Europe and around the world.*

EMBO Members are selected by the Council of EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization) for research at the forefront of the life sciences. This year, 56 new EMBO Members were elected from 22 countries. As an EMBO member, Prof. Baumann will serve on the EMBO Council, evaluate EMBO funding applications, and help mentor the next generation of young scientists.

Peter Baumann joined IMB as an Adjunct Director in 2018 and is a leading researcher in telomere biology and chromosome organisation. Telomeres are stretches of repetitive DNA bound by special protective proteins on the ends of chromosomes. Their main function is to protect the DNA from damage and shortening as cells divide. In normal cells, these telomeres shorten with each cell division until they are so short that the cell stops dividing. However, cancer cells overcome this by activating an enzyme called telomerase that replenishes telomeres, allowing uncontrolled division. Prof. Baumann and his team work on understanding the mechanisms of telomerase biogenesis and look for agents that modify telomere length to discover new treatments that could limit cancer growth.

### Further details

Further information can be found at the EMBO press release [here](#).

Peter Baumann is an Adjunct Director at IMB and Professor of Molecular Biology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Further information about research in the Baumann lab can be found at [www.imb.de/research/baumann](http://www.imb.de/research/baumann).

### About the Institute of Molecular Biology gGmbH

The Institute of Molecular Biology gGmbH (IMB) is a centre of excellence in the life sciences that was established in 2011 on the campus of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). Research at IMB focuses on three cutting-edge areas: epigenetics, developmental biology, and genome stability. The Institute is a prime example of successful collaboration between a private foundation and government: The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation has committed 154 million euros to be disbursed from 2009 until 2027 to cover the operating costs of research at IMB. The State of Rhineland-Palatinate has provided approximately 50 million euros for the construction of a state-of-the-art building and will give further 52 million in core funding from 2020 until 2027. For more information about IMB, please visit: [www.imb.de](http://www.imb.de).

### About Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) is a globally recognized research-driven university with around 31,500 students. Its main core research areas are in particle and hadron physics, the materials sciences, and translational medicine, while its most outstanding research achievements in the humanities have been attained in the fields of American Studies and Historical Cultural Studies. JGU's academic excellence is reflected in its success in the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments: In 2012, the university's Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions and Structure of Matter (PRISMA) Cluster of Excellence was approved and the funding of its Materials Science in Mainz (MAINZ) Graduate School of Excellence was extended. Moreover, excellent placings in national and international rankings, as well as numerous other honors and awards, demonstrate just how successful Mainz-based researchers and academics are. Further information at [www.uni-mainz.de/eng](http://www.uni-mainz.de/eng).

### Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation

The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization committed to the promotion of the

medical, biological, chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences. It was established in 1977 by Hubertus Liebrecht (1931–1991), a member of the shareholder family of the company Boehringer Ingelheim. With the Perspectives Programme “Plus 3” and the Exploration Grants, the foundation supports independent junior group leaders. It also endows the internationally renowned Heinrich Wieland Prize as well as awards for up-and-coming scientists. In addition, the Foundation is donating a total of 154 million euros from 2009 to 2027 to the University of Mainz for the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB). Since 2013, the Foundation has been providing a further 50 million euros for the development of the life sciences at the University of Mainz.

**Press contact for further information**

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