

**EMBL and Austria: A Forward Look  
Event Programme**

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| <b>Date, time</b>   | <b>7 July, 14:00-18:00 (CEST)</b>  |
| <b>Format</b>       | Virtual meeting: <a href="#">link to registration</a>  |
| <b>Workshop aim</b> | In its new Programme <i>Molecules to Ecosystems</i> , EMBL will build on its existing expertise and expand into new research areas, including microbial ecosystems, human ecosystems, planetary biology and infection biology. The new Programme also offers a unique collaborative model to EMBL member states, allowing to coordinate and truly integrate research across national borders and disciplines. This workshop aims to maximize the existing links and explore new synergies between EMBL and the Austrian scientific community, to encourage cooperation on joint projects to deliver research relevant to pressing societal challenges. For this event, the special focus is on the theme of Planetary Biology. |
| <b>14:00</b>        | <b>Opening: Barbara Weitgruber, Director General of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Republic of Austria</b>   |
| <b>14:10</b>        | <b>Introduction: Edith Heard, EMBL Director General</b><br>EMBL and its new Programme: Opportunities for Austria<br><br>Followed by a Q&A  |
| <b>14:50</b>        | <b>Session 1, chair: Christa Schleper, EMBL Council Delegate, Group Leader, University of Vienna</b><br><br>Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Filipa Sousa, University Vienna</b><br/>Life: 4 billion years changing (with) Earth</li><li>- <b>Gautam Dey, EMBL Heidelberg</b><br/>“The archaeal origins of the nucleus”</li></ul><br>(15 Min presentation, 5 min Q&A per speaker)  |

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| <b>15:30</b> | Coffee break   |
| <b>15:50</b> | <b>Session 2, chair: TBC</b><br><br>Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Magnus Nordborg, Gregor Mendel Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences</b><br/>“Model plants and plant models”</li><li>- <b>Yannick Schwab, EMBL Heidelberg</b><br/>“Sampling microplankton for fine ultrastructural analyses: the promises of a mobile laboratory”</li><li>- <b>Sylvia Cremer, Institute of Science and Technology Austria</b><br/>“Social immunity: cooperative disease defence in insect colonies”</li><li>- <b>Detlev Arendt, EMBL Heidelberg</b><br/>“<i>PlatyBrowser</i>: A multimodal cellular atlas for phenotypic and genetic variation”</li></ul><br>(15 min presentation, 5 min Q&A per speaker) |
| <b>17:10</b> | <b>General discussion and Q&amp;A</b>  |
| <b>18:00</b> | Closing  |

### Introducing the speakers:

#### **Barbara Weitgruber**

Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. Among the priorities in her portfolio are scientific research funding and research performing organisations, the co-ordination of the European Research Area and the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes in Austria as well as international cooperation. Barbara Weitgruber is a member of the Task Force for Research, Technology and Innovation of the Austrian Federal Government and chair of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria.

#### **Edith Heard, FRS**

Edith Heard is Director General of the EMBL. She studied Natural Sciences specialising in Genetics at Cambridge University and then obtained her PhD from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London. After a postdoc at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, she set up her group in 2001 at the Institut Curie where she became Director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Unit in 2010. She was appointed as Professor of the Collège de France in 2012 to the Chair of Epigenetics and Cellular Memory, and in 2019 she became Director General of EMBL.

#### **Filipa Sousa**

Group Leader of the Genome Evolution and Ecology Group at the University of Vienna. Sousa's group is interested in several aspects of microbial evolution, in particular in the diversity of biological systems

with focus on energy and carbon microbial metabolic strategies and how they evolved from one to the other.

**Gautam Dey**

Group Leader at EMBL Heidelberg. The Dey group studies the evolutionary origins of nuclear organisation and architecture, with a particular interest in nuclear remodelling through the cell cycle.

**Magnus Nordborg**

Group Leader and Scientific Director of the Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology (GMI), Austrian Academy of Sciences. Nordborg's group is specialising in population genetics with the aim to try to understand how evolution works, and how it has shaped the world we live in.

**Yannick Schwab**

Team Leader and Head of Electron Microscopy Core Facility at EMBL Heidelberg. The Schwab team is developing tools for the 3D correlation of data generated by multiple imaging modalities, such as fluorescence microscopy, X-ray imaging and electron microscopy.

**Sylvia Cremer**

Evolutionary Biologist at the Institute of Science and Technology Austria. Sylvia Cremer is interested in behavioural ecology and evolutionary immunology in ant societies. With her team, she studies individual and collective anti-pathogen defences of ants, by a combination of behavioural observations, physiological and molecular measures of immunity, and chemical analyses.

**Detlev Arendt**

Detlev is a group leader and senior scientist in the Developmental Biology Unit at EMBL Heidelberg and holds an honorary professorship at the Centre for Organismal Studies at Heidelberg University. Along with his laboratory work, Detlev is a leading figure in EMBL's new research area of Planetary Biology and was heavily involved in setting up the Green EMBL initiative.