

## Cats and dogs at the imMed retreat

Heidi Preisig

For their retreat on June 13 and 14, 2016, the students of the imMed PhD Program and its program commission were once again guests at the Sport- und Kongresszentrum of the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports (BASPO) in Magglingen high above the Lake of Biene. The retreat program was ambitious: Presentations of PhD projects on both days, a poster session and an invited speaker, Dr. Doris Wisler from the Clinical Trials Center, USZ.

The PhD presentations showed the broad range of research topics covered by the imMed students: the participants got a glimpse at forensic medicine, they learned about excellent networking in high-tech physiology, as well as the many new approaches and methods in regenerative medicine. A half hour walk gave the participants the opportunity to get some fresh air after a long day in the seminar room. In the meantime, the imMed BBQ team had set up everything wonderfully for dinner in the «Waldhaus», a cabin way up in the Jura forest. The evening started with an imMed tradition: students present their home country during the aperitif. This time, Sheng-Fu Huang gave an entertaining insight into her home country Taiwan.



A proverb says that too many cooks spoil the broth. On the contrary: Thank you very much for the delicious BBQ dinner, Francesco, Vidya, Daniel and their team! Soon after dessert, the group set out for a brisk walk down to the BASPO. Luckily, the cozy bar was open and the EURO 2016 football match Italy against Belgium was on the big screen.

On the second day, imMed student Penny Papageorgiou from the organizing committee of the Vision 2020 seminar series presented the fall semester topic «Tissue engineering». Daniel Gaul, imMed student and member of the board of the Life Science Zurich Young Scientists Network (LSZYSN), introduced his organization which supports career planning and networking with the industry. Thierry Hennet, Director of the imMed PhD Program, informed about the DissGo database, its development and its aims.

To round off the retreat and to fuel the team spirit, a team sports competition had been organized by a team of students. Heavy rainfall and wind, however, thwarted these plans and brought the retreat to an early end.

Looking back, one of the highlights of the 2016 retreat was the excellent quality of many presentations and posters. Congratulations on the best presentation award for Jakub Zimoch, and Beatrice Festa and Ermanno Malagola who ex-aequo won the best poster award! A big thank you goes to the retreat participants for their contribution to the success of this retreat, be it as presenters of talks and posters, in discussions, as session hosts, jury, preparing dinner or planning the team sports competition. They did not let the bad weather – it was raining cats and dogs for two full days - spoil the imMed retreat.

## Changes in the PhD Program Commission

imMed PhD Program Director **Thierry Hennet** was elected **Vice Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Science (MNF)** as of fall semester 2016. Congratulations!

He stepped down from the PhD Program commission. The commission would like to thank Thierry Hennet for his continuous great work and support for the development of the program.

As his successor, longtime program commission member and deputy chairman of the ZIHP **Christian Grimm** was elected **PhD Program Director** as of November 1, 2016. Thomas Lutz will act as his deputy. **Hans-Peter Landolt** from the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, UZH was elected **member of the commission**. Welcome!