

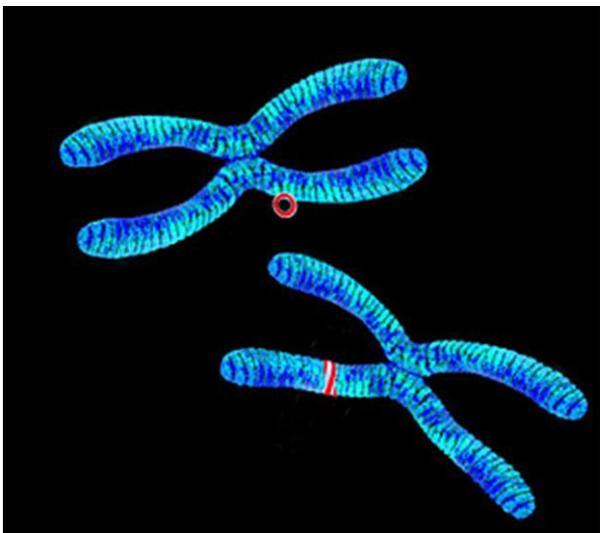
Press Release

1336

12 September 2013

MENDEL'S HEIRS: GENE RESEARCHERS MEET IN BRAUNSCHWEIG SEPTEMBER 23-25: ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN GENETICS SOCIETY

Approximately 200 geneticists from all around the World, renowned experts, junior scientists and students, will be meeting in Braunschweig September 23rd to 25th as part of the Annual Conference of the German Genetics Society (GfG). The conference at the campus of the Technische Universität Braunschweig (TU) will feature cutting-edge research in the areas of heredity, DNA analysis, and evolution. The meeting is jointly organized by the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) and the TU.



Helmholtz-HZI/Britta Meyer

This graphic shows a schematic illustration of two chromosomes (blue). Within the chromosomes, DNA is densely wound up around protein bodies.

Since the early beginnings of genetics, which can be traced back to the monk Gregor Mendel, this scientific discipline has undergone many dramatic changes. Back in the 1800s, the “father of modern genetics” was primarily concerned with figuring out how traits like the color of the flower of the pea plant are passed on from one generation to the next. Ever since, the classic science of heredity has continued to develop so that modern-day genetics now influences many areas of biology.

What is the relationship between genetics and our general state of health? What role does genetics play in organismal development and in the development of the nervous system? How do genes figure into a host organism’s susceptibility to an infection? Topics like these are as much part of the agenda of the 44th Annual Conference of the GfG as is the impact genes have on aging.

“For two and a half days, the conference program will address a wide range of topics,” says Prof. Klaus Schughart, one of the organizers of the meeting. Schughart is head of the HZI’s Department of Infection Genetics and investigates the role of genetics in infectious diseases. “The contributions of the invited international speakers and our many participants reflect the diversity that shapes the face of modern-day genetics,” adds Prof. Reinhard Köster, head of the Department of Cell Physiology at the TU Braunschweig, who organizes the event together with Schughart.

In addition to the over 40 presentations, several poster sessions will offer a chance to present and discuss research results. . As part of the event, the GfG will nominate the Elisabeth Gateff Award for the best Ph.D. work. This year, the award will go to Dr. Toby Gutschner. Also, Prof. Dr. Heinz Saedler will be this year’s recipient of the Max Delbrück Lecture Award for his lifetime achievements in plant genetics.

Moreover, on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 pm, Göttingen neuroscientist Prof. Hannelore Ehrenreich will be giving a public lecture in German language entitled “The genetics of mental disorders – towards a paradigm shift” in the “Haus der Wissenschaft” near the TU campus.

For additional information please visit: www.genetics-conference.de

The Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research:

At the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) in Braunschweig, scientists are studying microbial virulence factors, host-pathogen interactions and immunity. The goal is to develop strategies for the diagnosis, prevention and therapy of human infectious diseases.

www.helmholtz-hzi.de/en