

# Thematic network: Translational kidney research – from physiology to clinical application (TRENAL)

## Speaker

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## Aims and structure

TRENAL („Translational kidney research – from physiology to clinical application“) is an interdisciplinary network project that aims at leveraging the achievements of basic kidney research and translating them into novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. TRENAL is funded by the BMBF as one of the projects of the DAAD program line “Thematic Networks”. This project allows nephrologists, physiologists, nephropathologists, and basic researchers to participate in translational research in nephrology. Clinical departments and institutes from FAU and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light cooperate with partners at Yale University, New Haven, at the University College London (UCL), and, since 2017, the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

In 2018, funding was granted for another two years, 2019 and 2020, supporting the consolidation of the established networks between the four universities.

## Research

TRENAL supports the mobility of students, researchers, physicians in training, and professors interested in doing translational kidney research at one of the partner institutions. It furthermore provides financial support for selected conferences and educational events. Every year, physicians in training and students participated in the yearly Applied Renal Physiology Course at the UCL in London, which provides a comprehensive overview of up to date basic renal science and clinical applications. Furthermore, 16 TRENAL-funded young scientists from Erlangen and Berlin attended the Kidney Week of the American Society of Nephrology in New Orleans (2017) and San Diego (2018). This most prestigious interna-

tional meeting in the field of nephrology provided the participants with excellent opportunities to present their data, to discuss their research ideas, and to develop networks. Three of the participating TRENAL students were selected for the ASN STAR Award program.

## Teaching

TRENAL places a strong emphasis on the career development of medical students and young researchers. The program for the international exchange of MD students in Erlangen and Berlin was further developed. It now consists of a one year fulltime research period, with six months spent in a research laboratory in Germany (Erlangen or Berlin), followed by a six months period in a research facility at Yale or UCL. This program is supported by the IZKF in Erlangen and the BIH (Berlin Institute of Health) in Berlin. In 2017 and 2018, 19 medical students were funded by TRENAL to participate in the program. Teaching is further supported by lectures of visiting scientists from the TRENAL partner universities.



TRENAL scholarship holders from Erlangen and Berlin in New Haven (Photo: MedFak/E. Schwartze)

