

Internationalization of the Faculty of Medicine

Contact

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Basis

The internationalization of the Faculty is integrated in the target agreement on the internationalization of universities between the Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science, and the Arts and FAU. In 2013, the Faculty of Medicine defined its own activities concerning internationalization in a strategic paper, focusing on "research", "clinic", and "teaching" with the main focus on research.

Welcoming culture

Over the last years, the faculties have been supporting the work of FAU's Welcome Center concerning "welcoming culture". Together, they introduced networking events for scientists across all faculties, as e.g. the "Brown Bag Break" (BBB). In cooperation with the alumni management, the operational organization of BBB rotates through all faculties. So far, the Faculty of Medicine has successfully hosted twice the BBB in the Translational Research Center.

International students are supported by the mentoring program "MedBuddy" that helps settling in and gives orientation. The "MedBuddy"-concept is "from students for students" and furthers the welcoming culture, the international exchange on a student's level and the cross-cultural competence of FAU's students.

Studies

The bilingual homepage of the Faculty of Medicine gives detailed information on internationalization for "incoming" and "outgoing" students ("Student Mobility").

The office of the Dean for Student Affairs (contact: N. Walther) supports students of FAU when it comes to the organization and validation of a stay abroad, e.g. as part of the final year clinical elective. These stays can be supported by e.g. ERASMUS or within the interdisciplinary network project TRENAL (compare own report).

International students may do a placement in the Faculty's research institutions and departments.

Recently, the international Master degree program Molecular Medicine (compare own report) has started. Its teaching language is English (contact: Dr. S. Reiprich).

Research cooperations

The institutes, departments, and divisions of the Faculty of Medicine have worldwide research cooperations. On the occasion of this research report, all chairs belonging to the Faculty were interviewed. The result of these interviews is the basis for the cooperation maps that show where our scientists have existing research cooperations in Europe and worldwide. Transcontinental partnerships focus on Northern America (including USA) whereas the European ones are the strongest in Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Austria.

You will find more information on the mobility of scientists in the appendix of this research report ("International cooperations"). The list gives detailed information on the kind of mobil-

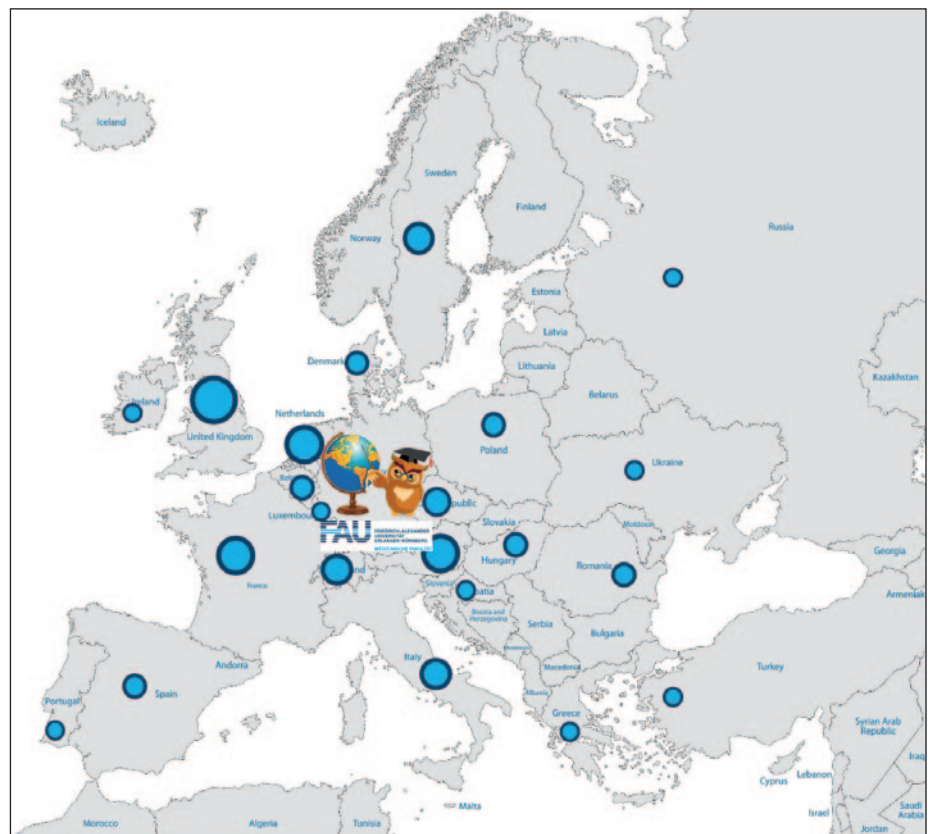
ity (incoming or outgoing), on the duration of the stay, the cooperating institutes, the project title, and funding sources.

Recruitment of scientists and improvement of infrastructure

By recruiting measurements, as for example touting our faculty at the naturejobs career exposition in London (2017), initiated by the BMBF campaign "Research in Germany", several young researchers could be won for IZKF.

We issued guidelines explaining the process operations concerning external inquiries by students or employees about working at UK Erlangen and at the Faculty of Medicine. These guidelines reduce organizational and language problems and help with recurring procedures concerning legal and formal questions.

On the Faculty's website, there is a glossary that was established in close collaboration with FAU's Language Service to advance the standardization of the English used by the administration organs and to facilitate paperwork for non-local people.



Cooperations of the Faculty of Medicine within Europe

The width of the circles reflects the number of partnerships in the country in question. (Map: colourbox.de)

Many departments and divisions have established international working groups within the last years and are eager to engage international visiting physicians and guest scientists. They try to support these people as much as possible when questions or problems arise. In one-on-one interviews, involved people confirmed that the international cooperations enrich the groups both, socially and scientifically.

Funding and partnerships

Within the period of the research report, we succeeded in raising several external funds and in establishing international partnerships. TRENAL (Translational Kidney Research; compare own report) is an example for an external funding: It is a themed partnership on kidney research, funded for five years (2015 – 2020) by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It comprises research as well as teaching; Partner institutions are Yale University, University College London, Charité Berlin, and the Max Planck Institute of the Science of Light. Erlangen's university medicine has many inter-

national ties in the field of medical engineering as e.g. partner of the leading edge cluster Medical Valley EMN, funded by BMBF from 2011 – 2015, and of the EU alliance EIT Health (compare own reports). EIT Health, for example, that supports universities, scientific organizations, and companies when it comes to network within Europe, funds several research cooperations and projects. Cooperating with Medical Valley EMN, we could successfully raise BMBF-funding for international innovation partnerships (2016 – 2017) with Massachusetts/Connecticut (USA), Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), and Hong Kong (China) directly after the end of the funding of the excellence initiative.

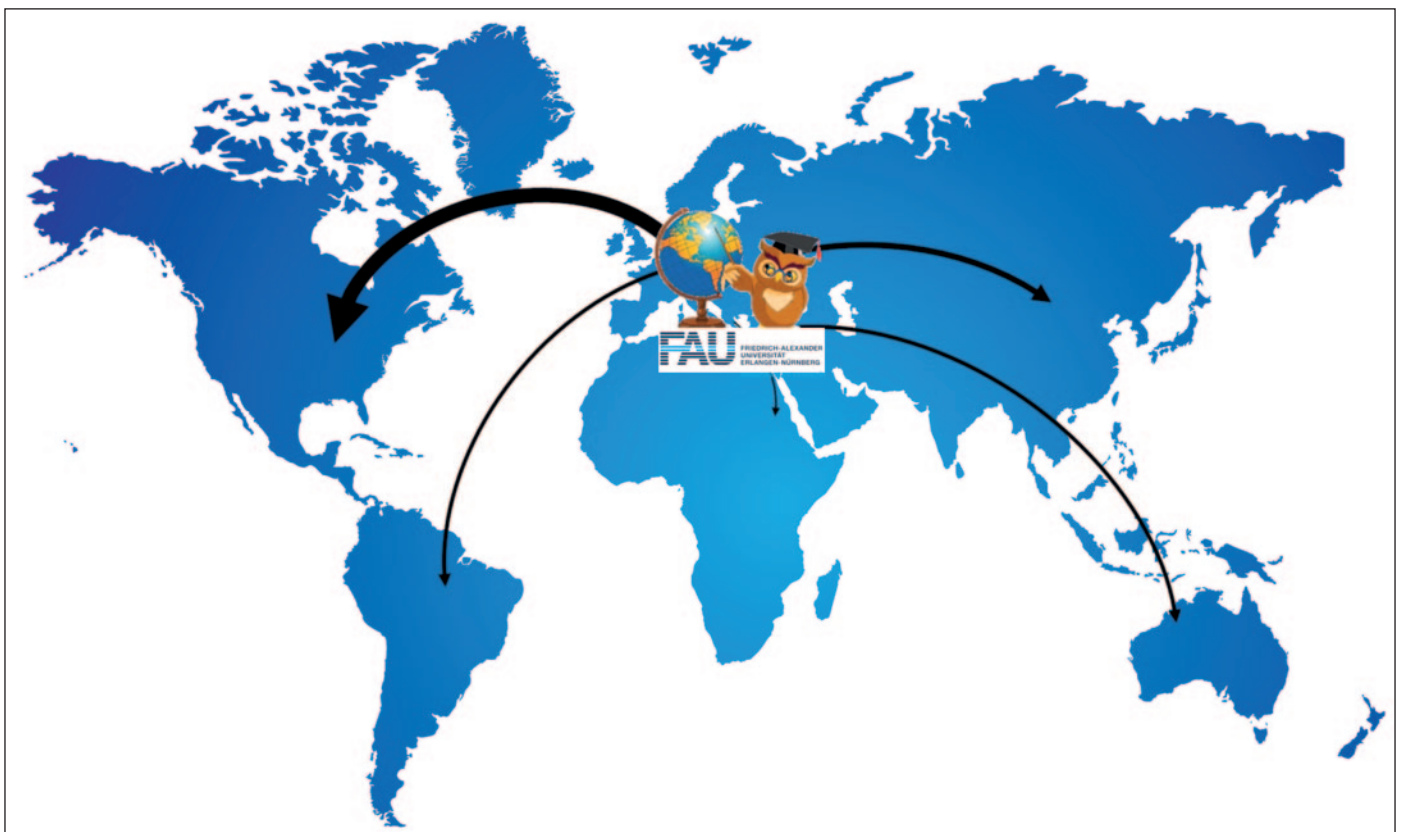
Summary and prospect

The increasing number of projects basing on international networks and the intensive scientific mobility within the Faculty of Medicine indicate that the strategy concerning internationalization was successful. It was early that the Faculty of Medicine decided to continue its internationalization activities after the end of the official funding period (2013 – 2018).

We will continue to recruit qualified scientists, e.g. by presenting on career fairs. Furthermore, we plan to do workshops with excellent international institutions, focusing on our core research areas, as e.g. the workshop at the Universidade de São Paulo (2019), which focuses on medical engineering. These activities shall help to build new research cooperations and to uphold existing ones.



(Photo: colourbox.de)



International cooperations of the Faculty of Medicine

The width of the arrows reflects the number of partnerships on the continent in question. (Map: colourbox.de)