



Research and training center of the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna in the field of Molecular Biology at the Vienna Biocenter (VBC).

#### Junior Group Leaders

19 highly qualified and motivated independent Junior Group Leaders have joined MFPL since 2008.



#### PhD degrees

Since 2007, 170 PhD degrees were awarded – 103 to women and 67 to men.



- 67 Austria
- 65 Europe (excl. Austria)
- 8 North & South America
- 27 Asia & Australasia
- 3 Africa



Work in progress seminar 2015.



Student laboratory practical at MFPL



MFPL's Dragonboat team 2010



MFPL symposium "Crossing Frontiers in Life Sciences" 2014.



MFPL PhD and Postdoc retreat 2010.

MAX F. PERUTZ LABORATORIES

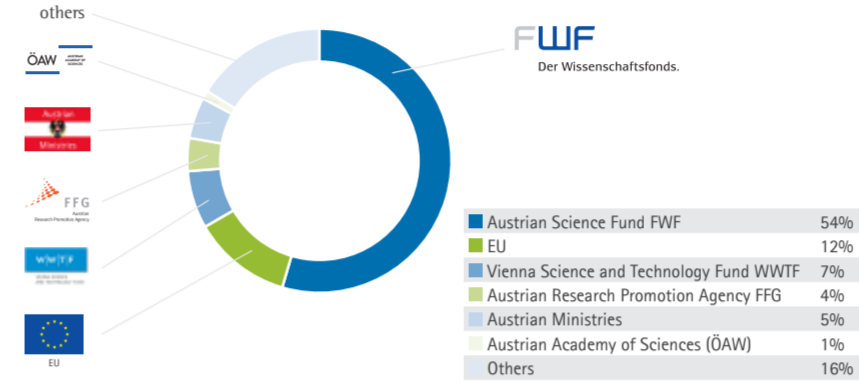
#### Research awards

MFPL scientists have won many prestigious research awards:

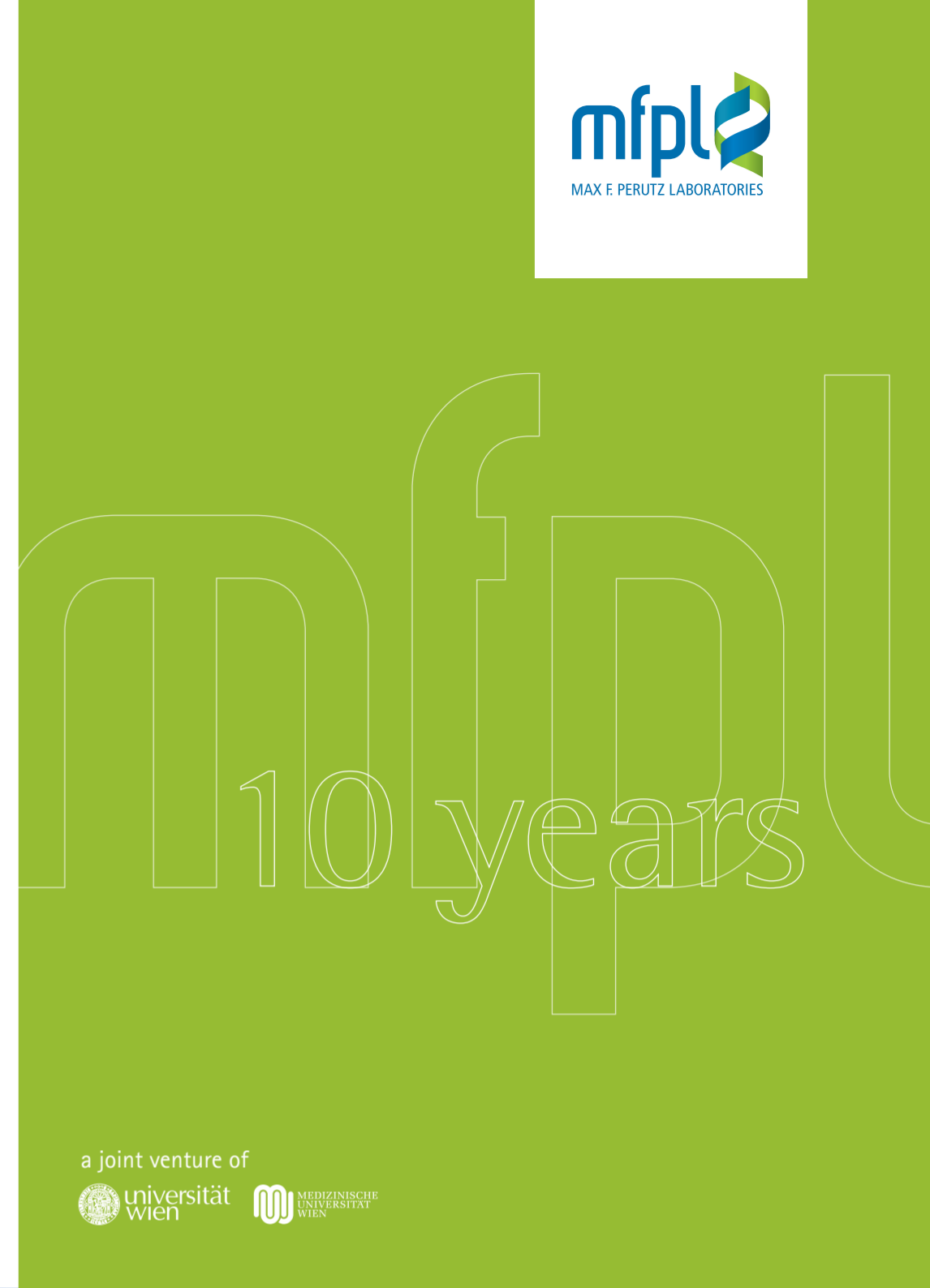
- 6 ERC Starting Grants
- 1 ERC Consolidator Grant
- 4 WWTF Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators
- 5 START Prizes
- 7 EMBO Members
- 3 EMBO Young Investigators
- 3 Human Frontier in Science Program Grants

#### Third-party funding

On average, MFPL researchers raise €13 million of third-party funding per year.



- Publications**  
Almost 2,000 peer-reviewed publications since 2005.
- Teaching**  
On average, 82 Master's degrees are awarded per year in Life Sciences subjects.
- Research groups**  
On average, 60 independent research groups with 500 people from 40 nations.
- Facilities & Services**  
Over 40 employees support MFPL scientists with state-of-the-art technologies, model species and professional administration.



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# History of the Max F. Perutz Laboratories

In the early 1980's, the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim (Germany) and biotech company Genentech (US) decided to found a basic research institute. Hans Tuppy, then Rector of the University of Vienna, Peter Swetly, then Head of biotechnology and immunology at Boehringer Ingelheim International, and Hans Mayr, then Deputy Mayor of the City of Vienna, were together able to convince the two companies to choose Vienna. Part of the agreement was to move related university research institutes to the proposed location in the third district to kick-start a "Biocenter".

Reference: Wirth, Maria, Der Campus Vienna Biocenter. Entstehung, Entwicklung und Bedeutung für den Life Sciences-Standort Wien, Innsbruck/Wien/Bozen 2013.

## 2005 MFPL milestones

2003: First publications with the affiliation: "Max F. Perutz Laboratories"

"The university institutes located at Dr. Bohr-Gasse 9 should become a single, unified department without subdivision into individual institutes. There should be as little distinction as possible between units belonging to one or the other of the two universities. [T]his new institute should be headed by a Scientific Director with extensive executive powers who is also a permanent professor at one or both of the two universities. She or he should be an internationally-reputed, broad minded, and active scientist who can give the unified institute a scientific vision and command the professional respect of the VBC scientists."

"The Future of the Vienna Biocenter" – A report by Kim Nasmyth and Gottfried Schatz.

2004: Endowed professorship for Bioinformatics amounting to €3 million of the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF) awarded to Arndt von Haeseler. The aim was to establish a center for bioinformatics at Dr. Bohr-Gasse under the condition that Arndt von Haeseler became a joint professor at the University

of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna. This led to the cooperation agreement between the two universities for a joint venture in 2005 when the Max F. Perutz Laboratories GmbH was established. Harald Hochreiter was appointed as Administrative Director and the interim Directorate comprised Thomas Decker, Roland Foisner, Egon Ogris, and Renée Schroeder.

"We wanted a strong name for our new university unit, a name that would make people take notice, not a three- or four-letter symbol, but the name of an outstanding scientist. We found naming our unit after Max Perutz, a Nobel Prize winner who had studied at the University of Vienna, was the most appropriate."

Rudolf Schweyen, Statement at the 5th year celebration of MFPL

2007: Graham Warren starts work as MFPL's Scientific Director. Together with Manuela Baccarini, Roland Foisner and Harald Hochreiter they formed MFPL's Directorate.

2008: First Junior Group Leaders join MFPL

2009: Start of MFPL International PhD program

2010: Vienna International Postdoc Program (VIPS) starts

2010: Fabien Martins appointed as new Administrative Director

2014: MFPL symposium "Crossing Frontiers in Life Sciences" on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Max F. Perutz

2014: Renewal of the cooperation agreement for MFPL between the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna

"The SAB were impressed by the quality of the science in the MFPL and encouraged by the opportunities that lie ahead."

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) 2015.



MFPL main building opened in 1992

MAX F. PERUTZ LABORATORIES

## What MFPL's community say:

"The values of merit, excellence and freedom that MFPL has established over the last decade are crucial and I hope that these will be maintained and extended in the future. MFPL has attracted a talented group of new faculty that has enhanced the visibility of MFPL both on the Vienna Biocenter and internationally."

Tim Stern, Group Leader

"A great strength of our institute is that we have great scientists from all around the globe doing exciting research. This makes MFPL an excellent place for PhD students interested in conducting basic research in the field of molecular biology."

Daniel Serwas, PhD student

"MFPL was born out of the wish of its scientists to stay together to perform and support excellent science by teaching, mentoring, helping each other as best as we can. Looking back at the past 10 years, I think we can be proud of our achievements, those of the founders as well as those of our colleagues who have joined us more recently. It is this spirit that I value most about MFPL, and I hope it will stay with us for the future."

Manuela Baccarini, Group Leader

"From the beginning, MFPL was and still is a highly complicated but overwhelmingly interesting institution. I like that we have so many different people, including the various challenges that these bring. But we need to focus more on our own talents and cease comparing ourselves to others. As Soren Kierkegaard said "Comparing is the end of happiness and the beginning of discontent!"

Marion Linger, Administration & Jack of all trades

"I like the international community at MFPL. Where else can a German learn Austrian German from a Brit?"

Thomas Kupka, Alumnus

"It has been a privilege and joy to be a part of MFPL's growth and transformation. A scientific melting-pot, MFPL continues to produce high-quality science that is a delight to observe and be a part of."

Bojan Zagrovic, Group Leader

"Looking back on the past 10 years at MFPL, we have seen the fostering of young talent at all stages of the academic career ladder."

Brooke Morriswood, Alumnus

"The pursuit for an inspiring, stimulating and well organized research environment is central to the vision of MFPL and should continue to be the driving force for years to come. I hope that consolidating the excellent human resources built up over the past 10 years and further future developments will accelerate the pace towards our vision. These measures will enhance MFPL as a breeding ground for excellent science where students have great opportunities to embark on scientific adventures."

Andrea Barta, Group Leader

"Efficient and top-notch research infrastructure has been established over the years. The scientific facilities together with professional administrative services are very valuable for MFPL's scientists and deserve credit for their excellent work."

Michael Jantsch, Group Leader

# 10 years

Research  
and Education  
in Molecular  
Biology

[www.mfpl.ac.at](http://www.mfpl.ac.at)

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