

Visit of 19 young Indian researchers to the Freie Universität Berlin



Photo: 19 Indian participants of the 61st Nobel Laureate Meeting, Lindau, Germany who visited the Freie Universität Berlin on 04. July 2011

The Institute of Microbiology and Epizootics of the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Freie Universität Berlin had the pleasure of welcoming and hosting 19 young researchers from India on 4. July 2011. The young researchers, who hail from several renowned institutions all over India, and who have a background in the natural and life sciences, were accompanied by Ms. Cherrie Mallins (Office Manager, DFG-Office, New Delhi, India) and Ms. Priya Datta (Lindau Alumni Coordinator, DFG-Office, New Delhi, India). The visit to the Freie Universität Berlin was combined with the 61st Nobel Laureate Meeting at Lindau, Germany with its focus this year on Physiology and Medicine, and these 19 researchers were selected in a competitive application process for the DFG (German Research Foundation)-DST (Department of Science and Technology, India) award for participating in the Lindau-Meeting.

The visit to the Institute of Microbiology and Epizootics was planned following the visit of the director of the institute and speaker of the DFG funded International Research Training Group (GRK1673), Prof. Lothar H. Wieler to the DFG-Office in India in January 2011. Due to the intense cooperation of the institute with the University of Hyderabad, India, through the Indo-German research training group, the institute was selected as one of many institutes in Germany to be visited by the young researchers.

A short program was organized on 4. July 2011 which was also attended by Ms. Cornelia Pretzer, Press and Public Relations Officer from the DFG-Office in Berlin. The young researchers were first introduced to the structure of the Institute of Microbiology and Epizootics and the functioning of the International Research Training Group (GRK1673) by the coordinator of the program, Dr. Esther-Maria Antão. Following this brief overview, the four working groups of the institute were introduced by Dr. Christa Ewers, Torsten Semmler, Dr. Karsten Tedin and Dr. Antina Lübke-Becker who gave an insight about the research conducted in the working groups. Finally the young researchers were given a chance to visit the laboratories and facilities of the institute and ask questions. Additionally, they could also talk to three Indian doctoral students and one post-doc from the GRK1673 in Berlin, namely Annesha Lahiri, Nishant Nandanwar, Arif Hussain and Dr. Haritha Singamaneni, who also participated in the meeting. The meeting ended with a get-together lunch at an Indian restaurant close to the Institute in Berlin-Mitte.

Berlin, 6 July 2011