

## **Post retreat report**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> GRK Weekend Retreat was organized in February 2018 at the “Hotel Arberblick”, Lohberg, Bavaria. The yearly retreat provides an exceptional event for presentation and communication of ideas, ongoing scientific work and progress.

At the day of arrival, we started out with a dinner at the evening that served as a great opportunity to meet up again all GRK PhD students, associate’s and PI’s as well as get in touch with the widely travelled keynote and guest speakers. Carl-Philipp Meinung opened the retreat by presenting his progress report. Following, PD Dr. Carsten Wotjak of the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich gave a great keynote talk, in which he presented his ongoing work on establishing mouse models of psychiatric diseases and emotional dysregulation in particular for the development and extinction of fear under consideration of alterations in endocannabinoid signaling.

Other talks presented on the weekend included progress reports of Melanie Royer, Kerstin Kuffner and Tobias Pohl, and of the associate PhD Rohit Menon about enhanced brain oxytocin signaling that prevents social fear during lactation. Further, Prof. Dr. Eugen Kerkhoff, PI of the GRK from the University Hospital Regensburg discussed interesting molecular aspects of emotion dysfunction, specifically the cooperative functions of formin, actin and spir complexes. The final keynote presentation was presented by Prof. Dr. Jaideep Bains, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Calgary, Canada. We were inspired by listening to an overview of a great amount of stress research that focusses mainly on a synaptic perspective and derived implications for diseases such as depression and anxiety using highly innovative animal models.

In between talks, there was enough opportunity to join outdoor activities such as skiing, sledging and hiking in the beautiful region of the Great Arber Mountain.

We are looking back to an inspiring and wonderful weekend that offered great opportunities to get in contact with researchers from different scientific fields and labs. The result was a lively discussion that led to new ideas, collaborations and strengthened the interdisciplinary scientific work. Finally yet importantly, we are all working on the same outcome: to shed light into the “Neurobiology of Emotion Dysfunctions” from different scientific perspectives and research fields.

A big Thank You to the organizers: Carl-Philipp Meinung, Tobias Pohl, Magdalena Meyer, Tanja Janoschek and Inga Neumann !