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Quality manager: Dr. Alexander Bexter: alexander.bexter@zi-mannheim.de

Current position: Full University Professor (W3) & Head of Department

Co-affiliations: Head, International Joint Laboratory for
Translational Research on Neuromodulation (LTN)
Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology,
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenzhen, China

Affiliate Professor, Center for Neuroinflammation and
Cardiometabolic Diseases, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

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Research impact metrics: Citations: >11,000; h-index: 50

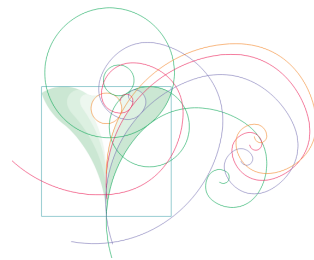
Gender: Male

Date of Birth: June 16, 1969

Citizenship: Germany

Research Interests

- 1) Developing new technologies to label and manipulate neuropeptidergic neurons.
- 2) Uncovering the functional organization of neuropeptidergic circuits.
- 3) Investigating neuropeptides in mental disorders by generating human neurons and modulating peptide signaling to develop new therapies.



Technological Avancements

1. Development of viral tools to label, reconstruct, manipulate, and monitor activity of hypothalamic neuroendocrine neurons.
2. Contributions to the development of novel sensors for real-time monitoring of neuropeptide release *in vivo*.
3. Generation of transgenic mice and rats using BAC and CRISPR-Cas9 technologies to enable genetic access to neurons, expressing neuropeptides or their receptors.
4. Establishment of opto-Neuropixels settings that enable recording from large numbers of neurons within relatively small populations expressing specific neuropeptides and their receptors.
5. Differentiation and generation of hypothalamic neurons from human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs).

Discoveries

1. Identification of a novel neuropeptide-based mechanism for modulating brain activity: non-synaptic axonal release in the cortex, amygdala, and brainstem. This mode of release is essential for adaptive behaviors such as social interaction, feeding, pain processing, and fear, challenging the 50-year-old dogma of passive, temporally uncontrolled peptide diffusion through brain tissue.
2. Identification of novel populations of hypothalamic neurons that process somatosensory inputs to alleviate pain in response to nociceptive stimuli, while also promoting social touch-dependent communication in response to gentle, non-nociceptive stimuli.
3. Demonstration of the existence of a memory engram within the hypothalamus, an evolutionarily ancient brain structure, overturning the prevailing view that memory storage is restricted to higher brain regions such as the hippocampus or cortex. This work further showed that hypothalamic neurons can modulate and reverse fear memories through both central and peripheral release of oxytocin.
4. Identification of glial cells (astrocytes) as novel target for neuropeptides, which improve emotional valence to resist threat both independently and in conjunction with neurons
5. Demonstrations that interneuronal chandelier cells in the prefrontal cortex are a primary target of oxytocin, enabling the maintenance of social behavior even under critical physiological demands such as hunger.

Education

Doctor of Medicine, Kursk State Medical University, Kursk, USSR-Russia.

1986-1992

Doctor of Philosophy, I.M. Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Biochemistry and Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

1992-1996

Doctor of Sciences (equal to *venia legendi*), Russian State Medical University, Moscow, Russia

1999-2003

Habilitation (*venia legendi*), Faculty of Biosciences, University of Heidelberg, Germany

2015

Professional Experience

1995, Predoctoral training, Molecular Endocrinology, Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

1997-1998, Researcher, National Endocrinology Center, Moscow, Russia.

1999-2000, Visiting Fellow, Section on Endocrine Physiology, NICHD, NIH, Bethesda, USA.

2000-2002, Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow, Department of Anatomy II, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany.

2002-2003, Full University Professor, Department of Histology and Embryology, Russian State Medical University, Moscow, Russia

2003-2007, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Molecular Neurobiology, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, Germany

2007-2008, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Physiology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

July 2008-March 2012, Group Leader, Department of Molecular Neurobiology, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, Germany

March 2012-April, 2019, Independent Group Leader/Head, Schaller Research Group on Neuropeptides, German Cancer Research Center and University of Heidelberg, Germany

May 2019-present, Full University Professor (W3) and Head of Department of Neuropeptide Research for Psychiatry, Central Institute of Mental Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany

May 2020-present, Affiliate Professor, Center for Neuroinflammation and Cardiometabolic Diseases, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

January 2025, Head, International Joint Laboratory for Translational Research on Neuromodulation (LTN), Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Science, Shenzhen, China

Professional Activities / Awards

Keynote Opening Lecture, Word Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones, 2027

Harold Gainer Prize Lectureship from the International Regulatory Peptide Society, 2027
 PIFI Distinguished Scientists, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2026
 Synergy ERC 2023
 European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Award 2021
 Human Frontier Science Program Award (2015-2019)
 Royal Society Award Edinburgh (2013-2017)
 Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation award to establish a new laboratory affiliated at the Heidelberg University and the German Cancer Research Center (2012-2019)
 Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, Germany (2000-2001)
 International Research Fellowship, NIH, USA (1999-2000)
 Award of European Academy (*Academia Europea*) for Young Researchers, Prize in Medicine, Belgium (1998)
 Russian President Mr. Boris Yeltsin's Stipend Award for research training abroad (1995)

Membership

Member of ECNP Awards Committee (2023)
 Faculty Member, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) (since 2021)
 Member of Governing Council, of the International Regulatory Peptide Society;
<http://www.regpep.org> (since 2018).
 Member of Advisory Board of "The Science Bridge"; <https://thesciencebridge.org>
 Member, Society for Neuroscience (since 2005)

Editorial work

Editor, *Scientific Reports*, 2024-present
 Series Editor, *Masterclass Book in Neuroendocrinology Series*, International Neuroendocrine Federation, Springer-Nature, 2024-present.
 Co-editor (with Rui Oliveira) of *Masterclass Book in Neuroendocrinology Series: Comparative and evolutionary neuroendocrinology*. Springer-Nature, 2025
 Co-editor (with Arpad Dobolyi) of *Masterclass Book in Neuroendocrinology Series: Neuroanatomy of neuroendocrine systems*. Springer-Nature, 2021
 Guest editor (with Adam Smith, Michael Bowen, and Benjamin Jurek), *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, Special issue: The Oxytocin System in Fear, Stress, Anguish, and Pain, 2021
 Co-editor (with Gil Levkowitz and Shlomo Wagner), *J. Neuroendocrinology*, Special issue of proceeding of WCNH 2019.
 Guest Editor (with Gustav Jirikowski), Special issue "Hypothalamic neuropeptides: Functions and circuitries" dedicated to the memory of Prof. Dr. Peter Seeburg, *Cell and Tissue Research*, volume 375, 2019.
 Co-editor (with Dr. Rene Hurlmann) of volume "Behavioral Pharmacology of Neuropeptides: Oxytocin", *Current Topics in Behavioral Neurosciences (CTBN)*. Springer-Nature. 2018.
 Guest Editor (with Drs. Gonzalo-Alvarez-Bolado and Luis Puelles) of the Research Topic of *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy*: "Development of the hypothalamus". *Front Neuroanat.* 2015, 9:83. doi: 10.3389/fnana.2015.00083.

Member of the Editorial Boards

Scientific Reports
 Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology
 Physiological Reports
 Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience
 Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience
 Peptides

Reviewer of manuscripts for:

Nature
 Science
 Neuron
 Nature Neuroscience
 Nature Communication
 PNAS
 Biological Psychiatry
 Translational Psychiatry

Science Signaling
 Scientific Reports
 Physiological Reviews
 Pain
 Stress
 Endocrinology
 Psychoneuroendocrinology
 Journal of Neuroendocrinology
 The Neuroscientist
 Gender and the genome
 Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience (reviewing editor)
 Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience (reviewing editor)
 The Journal of Comparative Neurology
 European Journal of Neuroscience
 Neuroendocrinology
 Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology
 Peptides
 Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
 Cell and Tissue Research
 Journal of Neuroscience Research
 Journal of Neural Transmission
 Hormone and Metabolic Research
 Journal of Endocrinology & Diabetes
 Cell Death & Disease
 Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology
 Bio-Technique & Histochemistry (formerly Stain Technology)

Reviewer of grant applications for:

Neurological Foundation, New Zealand (2025)
 US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (2024)
 ERC Advanced Grant (2013, 2023, 2024, 2025)
 ERC Consolidation Grant (2022)
 Human Frontiers Science Program (2022)
 Swiss National Science Foundation (2020, 2021, 2025)
 ERC Starting Grants (2019)
 US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (2017, 2018)
 Wellcome Trust UK (2010; 2015; 2017)
 German Research Foundation, DFG (2013, 2015-2025)
 Russian Science Foundation (2017, 2020)
 Czech Science Foundation (2017)
 MRC UK (2015, 2020, 2021)
 French National Research Agency ANR (2014, 2024)
 Israeli Science Foundation (2014, 2016, 2025)
 Newton International Fellowship, the Royal Society (2013)
 EMBO Installation grants (2013)

Activity in Scientific Agencies and Foundations

The Brain Prize 2026 of the Lundbeck Foundation, reviewer (2025)
 ANR Panel (2024-present)
 The Chica and Heinz Schaller Research Foundation, advisor (2025)
 DFG Panel of Research Training Groups (2021)

Individual Research Grants and Support: Approved grants

- DFG-ISF grant IS 326/6-1 ‘Heterospecific play anticipation and oxytocin signalling in rat medial prefrontal cortex’, PIs: Shimpei Ishiyama, Shlomo Wagner, Yosef Yarom; co-PI: Valery Grinevich, 2026-2029.
- PIFI travel grant, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2025.
- Grant for establishment of a new International Joint Laboratory for Translational Research in Neuromodulation (LTN), by the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Science, co-head: Prof. Jin Bao, 2025-2026.

- EU ERANET-NEURON “Pain and the social brain: the role of oxytocin in socio-emotional regulation of chronic pain” via DFG GR 3619/25-1, co-PIs: Valery Grinevich, Shlomo Wagner (Haifa University), Alexandre Charlet (CNRS), Melinda Cservenák (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), Daniel Quintana (University of Oslo), Ewelina Knapska (Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw), 2025-2029.
- Synergy ERC grant Oxytocin-driven territorial mapping in the mammalian hippocampal formation “OxytocINspace”, Coordinator PI: Valery Grinevich, co-PIs: Angela Sirigu (CNRS, Lyon), Dori Derdikman (Technion, Haifa), and David Omer (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), 2023-2029.
- Sub-Award of NIH R01 of grant of Prof. Brian Trainor (Davis, USA), University California Davis, 2024-2025.
- Sub-Award of NIH R01 grant of Prof. Robert Froemke (New York, USA), New York University, 2023-2025;
- Co-coordinator and Principle Applicant, Germany-Israel Program (DIP) “Touched or detached: neurobiological mechanisms of loneliness”, GR 3619/19-1, 2023-2028. Co-Coordinator: Simone Shamay-Tsoory (Haifa University). PIs: Rene Hurlmann (Oldenburg University) and Shlomo Wagner (Haifa University).
- Sub-Award of NIH R01 grant of Prof. Joanna Dabrowska (Chicago, USA), Rosalind Franklin University, 2022-2025;
- Sub-Award of NIH R01 grant of Prof. Javier Eduardo Stern (Atlanta, USA), Georgia Statet University, 2022-2025;
- SFB-1158 (INST 35/1288-3): “From nociception to chronic pain: Structure-function properties of neural pathways and their reorganization”, project: “Effects of intranasal oxytocin on the extinction of fear memories in patients and rodent models with chronic pain”. co-PIs: Valery Grinevich and Sabine Herpertz (University of Heidelberg). Second funding period: 2023-2027.
- SFB-1158 (INST 35/1288-2): “From nociception to chronic pain: Structure-function properties of neural pathways and their reorganization”, project: “Social influence on acute and chronic pain: Role of oxytocin-dependent mechanisms with a focus on insular cortical circuitry”. co-PIs: Valery Grinevich, Beate Ditzen, and Sabine Herpertz (University of Heidelberg). Second funding period: 2019-2023.
- Research Training Group (GRK) 2174: “Neurobiology of Social and Emotional Dysfunctions”, 2021-2025.
- DFG grant (GR 3619/15-1): “A study of the role of the central oxytocin system in animal-human bond: focus on domesticated Russian siviler foxes and rats”. PIs: Ludmila Trut (Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia) and Valery Grinevich, 2021-2024.
- DFG grant (GR 3619/16-1): “Coordinated regulation of feeding and social preferences by oxytocin in the rat and human”. Coordinator PI: Valery Grinevich, co-PIs: Shlomo Wagner and Kobi Rosenblum (Haifa University), 2020-2023.
- SFB-1158 (INST 35/1288-2): “From nociception to chronic pain: Structure-function properties of neural pathways and their reorganization”, project: “Social influence on acute and chronic pain: Role of oxytocin-dependent mechanisms with a focus on insular cortical circuitry”. co-PIs: Valery Grinevich, Beate Ditzen, and Sabine Herpertz (University of Heidelberg). Second funding period: 2019-2023.
- SFB-1158 (INST 35/1288-1): “From nociception to chronic pain: Structure-function properties of neural pathways and their reorganization”, project: “Social influence on acute and chronic pain: Role of oxytocin-dependent mechanisms with a focus on insular cortical circuitry”. Seed grant for Young Investigators. co-PIs: Valery Grinevich and Arthur Lefevre, 2019-2020.
- DFG grant (GR 3619/13-1): “Oxytocin signaling in the ventral hippocampus: from modulation of the local circuit to socio-sexual behavior”. PI: Valery Grinevich, 2019-2022.
- DFG-SNF grant (GR 3619/8-1): “Identification and functional characterization of an oxytocin neuronal population coordinating lactation.” co-PIs: Valery Grinevich and Ron Stoop (University of Lausanne), 2017-2020.
- DFG-ANR grant (GR 3619/7-1): “Deciphering oxytocin circuits orchestrating socio-sexual behavior”. co-PI: Valery Grinevich and Dr. Alexandre Charlet (University of Strasbourg), 2017-2020.

- Fritz Thyssen Research Foundation (10.16.2.018MN): “Functional and therapeutical investigation of the oxytocin system in the Magel2-deficient mouse model of autism and Prader-Willi Syndrome”, 2016-2020. PI: Valery Grinevich. Co-PIs: Francoise Muscatelli, INSERM, Marseille, France and Bice Chini, NRS, Milan, Italy.
- Sub-Awards of NIH R01 grant of Prof. Hala Haroni-Nicolas (New York, USA), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, 2020-2025.
- Fyssen Foundation Award (postdoctoral fellowship for Dr. Arthur Lefevre), 2017-2019.
- DAAD (postdoctoral fellowship for Dr. Giovanna Testa), 2020
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Award (postdoctoral fellowship for Dr. Daisuke Hagiwara, Nagoya and consumables), 2017-2020.
- Weizmann-DKFZ Helmholtz Program (PhD fellowship for Ms. Lara Barteczko), 2017-2020.
- DAAD (postdoctoral fellowship for Dr. Julia Lebedeva), 2018-2019.
- Human Frontier Science Program (RGP0019/2015): “Deciphering oxytocin circuits controlling social behavior”. Principal applicant and PI: Valery Grinevich. Co-PIs: Shlomo Wagner, Haifa University, Israel; Joseph Buxbaum, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA and David Hansel, CNRS Paris, France. Funding period: 2015-2018.
- SFB-1158 (INST 35/1288-1): “From nociception to chronic pain: Structure-function properties of neural pathways and their reorganization”, project: “Central oxytocin effects on acute and chronic pain processing”. PIs: Valery Grinevich and Sabine Herpertz (Department of Psychiatry, University of Heidelberg). First funding period: 2015-2019.
- SFB-1134 (INST 35/1239-1): “Neuronal ensembles: cellular components, patterned activity and plasticity of co-active neurons in local networks”, project “Oxytocin in the prefrontal cortex: from neuromodulation of the local circuit to fear memory consolidation”. PI: Valery Grinevich. First funding period: 2015-2018.
- Royal Society Edinburgh Award (2013-2017)
- PROCOPE program (DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service and Government of France), “Oxytocin-ergic connection between the PVN and SON: from anatomical evidence to physiological function”. PIs: Valery Grinevich and Alexandre Charlet (Strasbourg University, France) (2015-2016).
- Partnership Program University Tsukuba-DAAD, “Hypothalamic neuropeptides in the multiple system atrophy and Parkinson disease (clinical and experimental study)”. PIs: Gustav Jirkowski (Jena University), Hiroshi Takuma (Tsukuba University, Japan) and Valery Grinevich (2013-2014).
- German Research Foundation (DFG) grant (GR 3619/4-1): “Anatomical and functional characterization of fear-activated oxytocin neurons.” PI: Valery Grinevich (2012-2015).
- Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation award for establishing and conductance of the new laboratory affiliated at the Heidelberg University and the German Cancer Research Center. PI: Valery Grinevich (2012-2019).
- German Research Foundation (DFG) grant (GR 3619/3-1): “Oxytocin brain circuits in lactating rats”. PI: Valery Grinevich (2010-2012).
- German Research Foundation (DFG) grant (GR 3619/2-1): “Role of corticotropin-releasing hormone in stress-induced inhibition of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis.” PI: Valery Grinevich (2010-2012).
- Swiss National Research Foundation grant, “*In vitro* and *in vivo* effects of the fear response of optogenetically induced oxytocin release in the central amygdala.” PI: Ron Stoop (Lausanne University, Switzerland). Valery Grinevich is an external collaborator (2011-2015).
- German Research Foundation (DFG) grant (BO 1958/6-1): “The vasopressin V1a and V1b receptors in the medial preoptic area mediate maternal care in lactating rats.” PI: Oliver Bosch (Regensburg University, Germany). Valery Grinevich is an external collaborator (2011-2014).
- NIH grant (R21 MH093880-01): “Pharmacogenetic tool for the manipulation of functional brain connectivity”. PIs: Joshua A. Gordon (New York State Psychiatric Institute, USA), Cornelius T. Gross (EMBL Monterotondo, Italy). Valery Grinevich is an external collaborator (2011-2016).

- Alexander von Humboldt Research Grant/Fellowship, Germany (2000-2001). Recipient: Valery Grinevich, host: Prof. Gustav Jirikowski, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany.
- NATO Collaborative Research Grant (#SA.5-2-05, CRG.971559, 144/97/AHJ-501) (1997-1998). PIs: Greti Aguilera and Valery Grinevich.
- Grants of Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research (#97-04-50039) (1996-2005). PIs: Valery Grinevich and Ildar Akmayev (National Endocrinology Research Center, Moscow, Russia).

Coordinated Research Grants

- Coordinator and Principle Applicant, **Synergy ERC grant** “OxytocINspace”, 2023-2029.
- Coordinator and Principle Applicant, **Germany-Israel Excellence Program** (DIP) “Touched or detached: neurobiological mechanisms of loneliness”, 2023-2028.
- Coordinator, **DFG-funded Big Equipment Program** “Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope” (INST 35/1794-1), 2023 – open date
- Coordinator of DFG grant (GZ 1750) for organization of the **German-Sino Workshop** “Peptidergic Modulation of Metabolism, Social Behaviors and Mental Health”, Shenzhen, China, November 6th-8th, 2024.
- Coordinator and Principle Applicant, **Human Frontier Science Program** (RGP0019/2015): “Deciphering oxytocin circuits controlling social behavior”, 2015-2020.

Grants and Awards of Junior Scientists of the Team

Elisabeth McGullagh, Visiting Professor fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt foundation, 2026-2027

Nadine Alshakshir, postdoctoral fellowship from the DAAD, 2026-2027

Charlotte Höger, Alexander and Rosemarie Bauer Foundation Award, 2026

Stephanie Schimmer, poster prize by the SFB 1158-Taiwan Scientific Symposium, 2026

Viktoryia Tsay, travel stipend to attend the 2nd Neuroscience Young Scholar International Exchange Week (PIFI Week) in Shenzhen, China, 2026

Viktoryia Tsay, Neurostra Summer School travel and admission grant, Strasbourg, 2026

Viktoryia Tsay, Neurostra Summer School travel and admission grant, Strasbourg, 2026

Viktoryia Tsay, FENS forum travel and DAAD Kongressreisen grants, 2026

Eduard Maier, Junior Research Award of the European Social Club, 2025

Shimpei Ishiyama, DFG-ISF grant, 2026-2029

Shimpei Ishiyama, Award for Young Researchers of the Japanese Society of Neuroscience, 2025

Baolong Ren, PhD fellowship from the Chinese Scholarship Cancel (CSC), 2025

Stephanie Schimmer (former Küppers), PhD fellowship from “Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes”, Federal Government of Germany, 2023-2026

Huma Shaheen, PhD fellowship from the Government of Pakistan, 2023-2025

Xu Ding, China Science Foundation Postdoc fellowship, 2023-2024.

Dorottya Varkoni, Erasmus Master Fellowship, 2022-2023.

Huma Shaheen, Pakistani-German PhD fellowship, 2022-2025.

Stephanie Küppers, Foundation BrainAid IZN Master Thesis Award 2022; Selected speaker and winner of a poster prize on ECNP workshop in Nice, 2022.

Jonas Schimmer, selected speaker on IZN 20+1 conference, ZI Hub poster prize 2022

Alan Kania, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoc Fellowship, 2021-2023.

Quirin Krabicher, DFG Water Benjamin Postdoc Fellowship, 2021-2023; Travel Research Award from the Regulatory Peptides Society, 2022.

Eduard Maier, DFG Benjamin Walter Postdoc Fellowship, 2021-2023.

Ana Zovko, Erasmus Master fellowship, 2021-2022.

Ryan Patwell, DAAD Fellowship, 2021.

Konstantinos Afordakos, Erasmus Fellowship, 2021-2022.

Marina Eliava, Co-Award ECNP Research Award, 2021.

Arthur Lefevre, Co-Award ECNP Research Award, 2021; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, 2022-2023 (UCSD, USA).

Giovanna Testa, DAAD postdoctoral fellowship, 2020.

Grants and Awards of Junior Scientists of the Team (Alumni)

Ferdinand Althammer, Emmy Noether Group Leader Fellowship (DFG), 2023-2029

Arthur Lefevre, Starting ERC grant, 2023-2029.

Organized Meetings

Organizer (co-organizer Jin Bao) of the Sino-German Workshop “Peptidergic Modulation of Metabolism, Social Behaviors and Mental Health”, Shenzhen, China, November 6th-8th, 2024.

Chair (co-chair Limei Zhang) of symposium “Peptide Modulation in System Physiology”, PANAM Physiological Sciences-2023, Puerto Varas, Chile, November 27th-30th, 2023.

Co-Director (with Francesco Papaleo, Shlomo Wagner, and Pierfrancesco Ferrari) of IBRO-sponsored Workshop “Neurobiology of Social Behavior”, Erice, Sicily, September 9th-14th, 2023.

Chair (co-chair Arpad Dobolyi) of the symposium ‘Neurochemical ground of oxytocin signalling in the brain’, International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting, Porto, August 8th, 2023

Co-chair (chair: Lena Eliasson) of the symposium “Metabolism & Endocrinology”, Europhysiology 2022, Copenhagen, September 16th, 2022.

Organizer of the symposium “Anatomical and functional diversity of hypothalamic oxytocin and vasopressin neurons and their central projections”, 24th International Meeting of Regulatory Peptides Society August 2nd, 2022, Stirling, Scotland, UK.

Member of Program Committee, International Meeting of Regulatory Peptides Society, Stirling, Scotland, UK, August 1-5th, 2022, Stirling, Scotland, UK.

Co-organizer (with Yannis Paloyelis) of the symposium “Social neuropeptides: central oxytocin and vasopressin pathways and translational implications”. The International British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Summer Meeting 2021, July 21st, 2021 (online).

The European Social Club Initiative – Online seminar series (with Francesco Papaleo and Shlomo Wagner), 2021-present.

Co-organizer (with Yannis Paloyelis) of the symposium “Social neuropeptides: central oxytocin and vasopressin pathways and translational implications”. The International British Neuroscience Association (BNA) 2021 Festival of Neuroscience, London, April 13th, 2021 (online).

Mini-symposium of Oxytocin Friends, ZI, Mannheim, September 16th, 2020.

Co-organizer (with Limei Zhang, Mexico, Lee Eiden, NIH, and Ruud Buijs, Mexico) of the World congress of International Regulatory Peptide Society RegPep2020, Acapulco, September, 18-22, 2020 (pending)

Co-organizer (with Gordon Feld, Christian Paret, and Ainhua Bilbao) of the retreat of the Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim, November, 6, 2019.

Co-organizer (with Gil Levkowitz, Rehovot and Shlomo Wagner, Haifa) of the 13th World Congress on Neurohypophyseal Hormones (WCNH-2019) and the satellite symposium “New Horizons in Neuroendocrinology of Social Behaviour”, Israel, Rehovot-Ein Gedi, April, 2019.

Co-organizer (with Alexander Groh) of the symposium “Modulatory circuits of central pain processing (SFB 1158)”, German Neuroscience Society (NWG) meeting, Göttingen, March 20-23, 2019

Symposium “Translating oxytocin neuroscience to the clinic” (co-chair: Rene Hurlemann, Bonn), World Congress on Psychiatry, Congress of German Psychiatry Society, World Congress on Psychiatry, October, Berlin, 2017.

Symposium “Effects of oxytocin on social behavior in fish and mammals” (co-chair: Gil Levkowitz, Rehovot), Behavior-2017, Estoril, July 2017.

Symposium “Oxytocin modulation of sensory processing to facilitate social behavior”, 12th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones (WCNH-2017), Rio de Janeiro, July 26-29, 2017.

Mini-symposium “Oxytocin from rodents to humans: How to translate research into therapeutic applications in psychiatry”, SFN-2016, San Diego, November, 14 – 17, 2016.

Christmas Symposium “Oxytocin in socio-emotional brain”. Max Plank Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, December 21, 2015.

Symposium: “Molecular, neuronal and behavioral effects of oxytocin: a translational approach” (co-chair: Inga D. Neumann, Regensburg). Meeting of German Neuroscience Society, Göttingen, March 18 – 21, 2015.

Co-organizer (with Wolfgang Sommer and Viola Nordström) of Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center (IZN) Retreat-2014, Kloster Schöntal, November 30 – December 1, 2014.

Symposium: “Oxytocin and vasopressin: anatomical and molecular pathways to modulate brain circuits and behaviour” (co-chair: Bice Chini, Milan, Italy). Meeting of FENS – Federation of European Neuroscience Societies. Milan, July 5 – 9, 2014.

Workshop: “Advanced genetic methods in the modern neuroendocrinology” (co-chair: Alon Chen, Rehovot, Israel). Meeting of EEBS – European Brain and Behaviour Society, Munich, September 6 – 9, 2013.

Invited Seminars (Research Departments)

Brain Research Center (CERVO), Laval University, May 22nd (2026), Quebec City, Canada.
Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, April 8th (2026), Shenzhen, China.

Shenzhen Medical Academy of Research and Translation, April 7th (2026), Shenzhen, China.

Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, April 3rd (2026), Peking, China.

Tsinghua University Fundamental Medicine College, April 2nd (2026), Peking, China.

Peking University Neuroscience Center, April 1st (2026), Peking, China.

Harvard Interdisciplinary Oxytocin Research Initiative, USA, January 21st (2026), online seminar.

Dynamic Healing Discussion Group www.backincontrol.com, USA, February 4th (2024), online seminar.

Neuroscience department, University of Connecticut Health and CT Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Farmington, USA, January 25th (2024), online seminar.

Life and Science Research Institute (ICVS), University of Minho, August 12th, Braga, Portugal (2023).

ZIHUB Mental Health Alliance – German Centre for Psychiatry, May 30th, Mannheim (2023).

Workshop “Enhanced psychotherapy”, ZIHUB Mental Health Alliance Retreat, September 29th, Heidelberg (2022).

Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, March 24th (2021), video lecture.

PennState College of Medicine, Neuroscience Seminar Series, February 18th (2021), video presentation

IZN-International Centre for Neuroscience, Heidelberg, January 20th (2021), Concept Lecture, video presentation.

Brain Science Institute, RIKEN, Tokyo, December 21st (2020), video presentation.

Seminar Series “Interdisciplinary Research Initiative, Harvard Medical School, Boston, December 9th (2020), Keynote Lecture, video presentation.

Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Chicago, November 12th (2020), video presentation.

Loops Seminar Series in the SPP DFG initiative “Subcortico-cortical loops in sensory processing and perception. Berlin-Frankfurt, November 9 (2020), video presentation.

Joint Research Colloquium between ZI, University of Heidelberg and University of Ulm, November 3 (2020), video presentation

Scientific Colloquium on Corona Research Projects at the CIMH, Mannheim, October 13 (2020), video presentation

Biozentrum, Basel University, Basel, February 13 (2020)

Würzburg University (2019)

Eötvös and Semmelweis Universities, Budapest (2019)

Freiburg University (2019)

ISC Marc Jeannerod, INSERM, Lyon (2018)

Center for Integrative Physiology, Edinburgh University (2017)

Korean Institute of Science and Technology, Seoul, Korea (2017)

Iliia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia (2017)

University of Bonn (2017)

Weizmann Institute of Science (2017)

Haifa University, Haifa (2017)

Ulm University (2016)

Cesar-Max Planck Institute, Bonn (2016)

Regensburg University, Regensburg (2016a, b)

Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim (2016)

Mediterranean Institute of Neuroscience (INMED) INSERM, Marseille (2016, 2017)

University of Haifa, Haifa (2016)

Institute of Cellular and Integrative Neurosciences, CNRS, INSERM, University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg (2015)
 Ilia M. Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg (2015)
 Ivan P. Pavlov Institute of Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg (2015)
 NeuroCurie, Charité, Berlin (2015)
 Department of Biology, Humboldt University, Berlin (2015)
 RIKEN Institute for Brain Science, Tokyo (2015)
 Sagol Department of Physiology, University of Haifa, Haifa (2015)
 Pediatric Department of Toulouse University and INSERM, Toulouse (2015)
 Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim (2014)
 Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2013)
 Mediterranean Institute of Neuroscience (INMED) INSERM, Marseille, France (2013)
 RIKEN Institute of Science, Tokyo, Japan (2013)
 Nagoya University Medical School, Nagoya, Japan (2013)
 Tsukuba University Medical School, Tsukuba, Japan (2013)
 Centre for Integrative Physiology, Edinburgh University, Edinburgh (2013)
 Nencki Institute for Experimental Biology, Warsaw, Poland (2013)
 Emory University, Atlanta, USA (2012)
 Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel (2012)
 Centre for Integrative Physiology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh (2012)
 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, New York (2011)
 The Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim (2011)
 Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center, Heidelberg (2010)
 European Molecular Biology Laboratories (EMBL), Monterotondo (2010)
 Department of Psychiatry, Lausanne University (2010)
 INSERM, Bordeaux (January, 2010)
 NINDS, NIH, Bethesda (2009)
 NICHD, NIH, Bethesda (2009)
 Department of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, University of Regensburg, Regensburg (2009, 2011)
 Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry, Munich (2008)
 Department of Biology, Groningen University (2004)
 Ivan P. Pavlov Institute of Physiology, Saint-Petersburg (2003)
 Department of Clinical Neurobiology, Heidelberg University (2002)
 Departments of Anatomy I and II, Jena University (2000)
 Developmental Endocrinology Branch, NICHD, NIH (1997)

Invited Seminars (Meetings)

Sorbonne University (Paris Brain Institute) and Heidelberg University (IZN) Summer School “Modeling human neuropathologies”, Pornichet, France, 7th-11th July, 2026.
 Symposium “Hypothalamic peptides in dual control of homeostasis and behavior”, 19th Canadian Neuroscience Meeting, Montreal, May 18th-21st, 2026
 Neuronus & Young PTBUN 2026, Neuroscience Forum, Krakow, April 24-26th, 2026
 Meeting of European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS), Almeria, Spain, September 17th-20th, 2025.
 Workshop “Neuromodulation of Connections” in memory of Larry Young, Erice, Sicily, Italy, September 9th-14th, 2025.
 International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) Annual Meeting, Tromsø, Norway, June 24th-29th, 2025.
 The Sino-German Workshop “Peptidergic Modulation of Metabolism, Social Behaviors and Mental Health”, Shenzhen, China, November 6th-8th, 2024.
 Gordon Research Conference on Optogenetic Approaches to Understanding Neural Circuits and Behavior (OptoGRC), Lucca, Italy, July 21st-26th, 2024.
 Meeting of Japanese Society for Neuroscience S4SN, Tsukuba, March 27th, 2024 (online).
 Collaborative Research Centre TRANSREGIO 265 “Losing and Regaining Control over Drug Intake: From Trajectories to Mechanisms to Interventions”, Weimar, March 13th, 2024.
 The Challenge of Chronic Pain: from Genomics to Therapy, Wellcome Connecting Science, Cambridge, December 1st, 2023 (online).

PANAM Physiological Sciences-2023, Puerto Varas, Chile, November 27th-30th, 2023. [Plenary Lecture](#).

“Global Day Against Pain” Activity, Pain Research Symposium, Beijing, October 16th, 2023 (online).

IBRO-sponsored Workshop “Neurobiology of Social Behavior”, Erice, Sicily, September 9th-14th, 2023.

Summer School Translational Addiction Research “A Systems-Oriented Approach: From Genes to Brain to Behaviour”, Heidelberg, August 19th, 2023.

The 96th Annual Congress of Japanese Endocrine Society, Nagoya, June 1st, 2023, [Plenary Special Lecture](#) (online).

Neuropeptide Signaling: Bridging Cell Biology, Neurophysiology, and Behavior, Janelia Farm, April 18th, 2023 (online).

DGGPN meeting, Berlin, November 25th (2022).

Neuronus-2022 under support of the IBRO, Krakow, October 17th (2022). [Keynote Lecture](#).

AGNP/DGPB meeting, Berlin, September 14th (2022).

Conference “Subcortico-cortical loops in sensory perception and processing”. Berlin, June 8th – 10th (2022).

Workshop “Oxytocin and vasopressin. From brain modulation, to epigenetic modulation and clinical applications”, Erice, Sicily, May 29th – June 2nd (2022). [Keynote Lecture](#).

IBRO-MITT Conference, Budapest, January, 28th (2022). [Plenary Lecture](#).

International Symposium for Networking in Neuroscience, Rio de Janeiro, October 22nd (2021), video presentation. [Plenary Lecture](#).

29th Meeting of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience, Athens, October 9th (2021), video presentation: [Plenary Lecture](#).

34th Congress of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Lisbon, October 4th (2021). [Plenary Award Lecture](#).

20+1 Retreat of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center (IZN), Kloster Schöntal, Baden Württemberg, September 14th (2021). [Plenary lecture](#).

23rd International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides, Acapulco, August 17th (2021), video presentation. [Keynote Lecture](#).

Symposium “Social neuropeptides: central oxytocin and vasopressin pathways and translational implications”. The International British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Summer Meeting, July 21st, (2021) (online).

Nature Portfolio meeting “Pujian Innovation Forum 2021”, Pujian, China, June, 4th, 2021, video presentation. [Keynote Lecture](#).

Symposium “Social neuropeptides: central oxytocin and vasopressin pathways and translational implications”. The International British Neuroscience Association (BNA) 2021 Festival of Neuroscience, London, April 13th, 2021 (online).

Virtual Symposium “Central oxytocin signalling”, New York, December 15th (2020), video presentation. [Keynote lecture](#).

Annual Symposium on Pain SFB 1158. Heidelberg, December 8th (2020), video presentation.

9th Annual Meeting of GDR3545 and GPCR-2020 “From physiology to drugs”. Paris, November 8 (2020), video presentation. [Keynote Lecture](#).

Institute Neuroscience Cognition (INC) Day 2020: The Embodied Brain, University of Paris, Paris, November 5 (2020), video presentation.

Workshop “Peptide regulation in system biology and its translational opportunities”, Mexico City, August 9 (2019)

Symposium honoring Prof. Dr. Peter Hegemann “Optogenetic Tools and Applications in Biology”, Regensburg, June 28th (2019)

German-Israel Minerva School “Bridging the gap between genes and behavior: Neuropeptide regulation of socio-emotional behaviors”, Regensburg, June 18-20 (2019)

5th Neuroscience Meeting in Bonn “Bonnbrain³”, Bonn, March 25-27 (2019)

International symposium on neural circuits of emotion and memory, Xi'an, November 24-25 (2018)

ZI retreat: ZIPP and More: Crossing the Bridge Between Research and Clinic, October 30-31, Bad Dürkheim (2018)

Congress of German Pain Society, October 19, Mannheim (2018)

Regulatory Peptides Meeting, September 22-25, Acapulco (2018)

Workshop “Understanding the Neuroregulatory Actions of Oxytocin and its Potential Clinical Applications”, May 22-26, Erice, Sicily (2018)

Annual Congress of German Society for Biological Psychiatry, March 15-17, Heidelberg (2018)
 World congress on Psychiatry, October 9-12, Berlin (2017)
 Behavior-2017, July, 2 – August 4, Estoril (2017)
 12th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones (WCNH-2017), July, 26-29, Rio de Janeiro (2017)
 Japanese Society for Neuroscience meeting, July 19-23, Ciba, Tokyo (2017)
 Minisymposium SFB 1158, July 6, Heidelberg (2017)
 Christmas Symposium SFB1134, December 9, Heidelberg (2016)
 Congress of German Psychiatry Society, DGPPN Congress 2016, November 30, Berlin (2016)
 Mini-symposium SFB 1158 “Neural Circuits of Pain”, March 23, Heidelberg (2016)
 The Haifa Forum for Brain and Behavior “Neuroscience of Social Interactions and Memory”, February 14-16, Haifa (2016)
 Meeting dedicated to 90-year anniversary of Pavlov Institute of Physiology, Saint Petersburg, 2016, December 7-11, Saint-Petersburg (2015).
 12th Nikko International Symposium 2015 “Frontiers in Neuroscience, November 20, Japan (2015)
 14th International Congress on Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins, August 3 – 7, Vienna (2015)
 11th Symposium on Catecholamines and Other Neurotransmitters in Stress, June 20 – 25th, Smolenice, Slovakia (2015)
 1st German Neuropeptide symposium (an announcement of application for whole-German program for oxytocin research). June 4 – 5, Regensburg (2015).
 Symposium: “Emotional brain”, Polish Academy of Sciences, May 21 – 22, Warsaw (2015).
 Symposium: “Oxytocin gives the tempo for social behavior”, 12th Meeting of the French Neuroscience Society, May 19 – 22, Montpellier (2015).
 Symposium: “Oxytocin: Mechanistic Insights in Therapeutic Perspectives”, 2014, November, 27th, Berlin (2014).
 International Congress of Neuroendocrinology 2014, August 17 – 20, Sydney (2014).
 Satellite Meeting of the International Congress of Neuroendocrinology 2014 “Recent and future trends in neuroendocrinology – From Asia and Oceania to Global”, August 16, Sydney (2014)
 Meeting of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies. July 5 – 9, Milan (2014)
 Physiology 2014, June 30 – July 2, London (2014)
 Workshop: “Advanced genetic methods in the modern neuroendocrinology”. Meeting of EEBS – European Brain and Behaviour Society, September 6 – 9, Munich (2013)
 SFB initiative on Pain, Preproposal symposiums, February 20, April 12, Heidelberg (2013)
 Symposium: “3rd Neurophysiology of magnocellular/parvocellular neuroendocrine neurons workshop”. October 13, New Orleans (2012)
 Symposium: “Neurobiology of Stress: new vistas”. 4th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference, September 30 – October 3, Istanbul (2012)
 Annual Congress of German Society for Biological Psychiatry, September 14-15, Heidelberg (2012)
 SFB initiative “Functional ensembles – generation, plasticity and behavioral consequences of coherent neuronal activity”, May 31, Heidelberg (2012)
 1st Mexican-German Meeting “Propagation of neuronal assemblies in central network”, April 20, Heidelberg (2012)
 4th International Haifa Forum for Brain and Behavior and Molecular and Cellular Cognition Society meeting, February 5-7, Haifa, Israel (2012)
 9th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones, July 27-30, Boston, USA (2011)
 10th Symposium on catecholamines and other neurotransmitters in stress, June 25-30, Smolenice, Slovak Republic (2011)
 CHS Schaller Symposium, Heidelberg (2011)
 Christmas Symposia SFB 488, Heidelberg (2009, 2010)
 Janelia Conference “Can new tools revolutionize understanding of hypothalamic neural circuits?”, October 25-28, Loudoun County, VA, USA (2009)
 “Neuropeptides-2009”, October 14-16, Chicago, IL, USA (2009)
 International Meeting of Pavlovian Society for Physiology, Moscow, Russia (2007)
 World Congress on Cell and Molecular Biology, Jena, Germany (2000)
 International Symposium of Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology, Novosibirsk, Russia (1999)
 The XXXIXth Symposium of the Society for Histochemistry, Jena, Germany (1997)

Supervision of Student's Thesis

Student names and type of theses

1. Baolong Ren, PhD thesis
2. Charlotte Höger, PhD thesis
3. Ana Zovko, PhD thesis
4. Antonella Daresta, PhD thesis
5. Sebastian Einsiedler, PhD thesis
6. Yvonne Schwarte, Master thesis
7. Leonie Bechthold, Master thesis
8. Leonie Bechthold, Bachelor thesis
9. Mona Kollarczik, Bachelor thesis
10. Charlotte Höger, Master thesis
11. Anastasia Gykalova, Master thesis (together with the Frankfurt University)
12. Antonella Daresta, Master thesis (together with the Trieste University)
13. Viktoriya Tsay, PhD thesis
14. Huma Shaheen, PhD thesis
15. Angelika Puzowski, Master thesis
16. Konstantinos Afordakos, PhD thesis

Titles of theses and dates

Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University, since September 1st, 2025.

Dissecting the functional organization of the brain's arginine vasopressin system with novel genetic tools, since January 1st, 2025. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Generation of human iPSC-derived oxytocin neurons and their functional validation in athymic rat brain, since November 2022. Co-supervision with Prof. Dr. Phillip Koch, CIMH/ZI. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Impact of cortical oxytocin receptor manipulation on nursing-induced receptive field properties in maternal rats, since April 1st, 2025. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Detection and categorization of rat-vocalization: A machine learning based approach, since May 1st, 2025. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Spatial patterns, aggressive interactions, and environmental contexts. Defended on July 29th, 2024. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Plasticity of synaptic input to parvocellular oxytocin neurons during lactation of rats, since May 1st, 2025. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

The oxytocin system and playfulness: A chemogenetic study in rats. Defended on March 22nd, 2023. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Anatomical characterization of oxytocin receptor cells in the primary somatosensory cortex of lactating rats. Defended on September 17th, 2024. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

A study of the brain's arginine vasopressin (AVP) system: The role of hypothalamic AVP projections to amygdala and beyond. Defended on October 7th, 2024. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Anatomical and functional investigation of periaqueductal gray oxytocin receptor neurons projecting to hindbrain vocalization areas in rats. Defended in Frankfurt on January 10th, 2025

Establishing molecular and electrophysiological methods to investigate oxytocin-dependent receptive field plasticity in lactating rats. Defended in Trieste on March 2025.

Oxytocin-mediated cortical plasticity underlying maternal care, since August 2024. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

Mapping and interrogating brain oxytocin circuits in social and non-social rewards, since December 2022. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

The efferent connections of hypothalamic vasopressin neurons in the rat brain. Defended on November, 15th, 2022. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

The role of oxytocin sensitive interneurons of the hippocampal formation in maternal territoriality, since September 2022. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

17. Stephanie Shimmer
PhD thesis
Interplay between oxytocin and the insular cortex in the modulation of emotional state under pain”, since November 2021. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
18. Jonas Schimmer,
PhD thesis
The role of oxytocin in modulation of the ventral hippocampus in relation to socio-sexual behavior”, defended on December, 2023 (Magna cum laude). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
19. Lara Bartzeko, PhD
thesis
A study of oxytocin effects within the hippocampo-entorhinal domain in rats”. Defended on December 14th, 2021 (Magna cum laude). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
20. Jonas Lange, Master
thesis
Synaptic inputs to oxytocin neurons: retrograde tracing by retrograde adeno-associated virus, canine adenovirus and deletion-mutant pseudotyped rabies virus. Defended on July 2018. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
21. Jonas Schimmer,
Master thesis
Equilibrium of oxytocin and glutamate in the central amygdala during associative fear learning. Defended on 1st of June, 2018. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
22. Ferdinand
Althammer,
PhD thesis
Fear memory engram in the hypothalamic oxytocin system. Defended on September 11th, 2017 (Magna cum laude). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
23. Miriam da Silva
Gouveia (Kernert),
PhD thesis
Oxytocin neuron ensembles modulating fear expression and extinction. Defended on April 10th, 2017 (Magna cum laude). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
24. Monica Pinka-Barth,
Master thesis
Medical Faculty of University of Heidelberg (co-supervisor: Sabine Herpertz). Defended on December 2016. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
25. Jonas Schimmer,
Bachelor thesis
Oxytocin signaling in the lateral septum. Defended on May 2016. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
26. Diego Benusiglio,
PhD thesis
Modeling of oxytocin neuron active units in socially behaving rodents. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
27. Jonas Metz, Bachelor
thesis
Identification of oxytocin neurons activated by single and repeated fear events. Defended on July 2015. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
28. Tim Gruber,
Master thesis
Monitoring oxytocin release and activity of oxytocin neurons in vivo. Defended on February, 2015. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
29. Lena Heuschmid,
Master thesis
Plasticity of oxytocin system. Defended on December, 2014. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
30. Sadia Oumohand,
Master thesis
Gene targeting of experience-activated oxytocin neurons in the rodent hypothalamus. Defended on April, 2014. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
31. Ferdinand
Althammer,
Master thesis
Viral-based manipulation of transcription, translation and exocytosis of hypothalamic neurohormones. Defended on February 7th, 2014. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
32. Lena Hoffmann, PhD
thesis
CRH and its receptor CRH-R1 in stress-induced suppression of reproductive physiology Defended on March 20th, 2013 (*Magna cum laude*). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
33. Alison Wolf, Bachelor
thesis
Viral-based manipulation of activated oxytocin neurons *in vivo*. Defended January 2013. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
34. Sophie Knobloch,
PhD thesis
Anatomy and physiology of the central oxytocin system. Defended on May, 2012; *Summa cum laude*. **Otto Hahn Medal of the Max Planck Society** for the best PhD thesis performed in the 2012). Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.
35. Miriam Kernert;
Master thesis
Anatomical heterogeneity of hypothalamic oxytocin neurons, studied by viral vectors-based techniques. Defended February 2012. Faculty of Biosciences of the Heidelberg University.

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| 36. Sophie Koszinowski,
Master thesis | Connectivity of oxytocin and CRH neurons, evaluated by viral technique co-supervised with Prof. Dr. Inga Neumann. Defended in 2012, Regensburg University. |
| 37. Alexander V. Misharin,
PhD thesis
(Candidate of Medical Sciences) | Effects of the bacterial endotoxemia on vasopressin receptor type 2 – aquaporin 2 system in the rat kidney Defended in 2004, Moscow, Russia. |
| 38. Alexei B. Resnenko
PhD thesis
(Candidate of Medical Sciences) | Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in rats subjected to chronic lipopolysaccharide administration. Defended in 2004, Moscow, Russia. |
| 39. Elena V. Sivukhina,
PhD thesis
(Candidate of Medical Sciences) | Magnocellular hypothalamic nuclei in patients afflicted with chronic alcoholic disease. Defended in 2004, Kursk, Russia. |
| 40. Tatjana A. Ishunina,
PhD thesis
(Candidate of Medical Sciences) | Sex- and age-dependent differences in the supraoptic nucleus of the human hypothalamus (Kursk State Medical University, Kursk, Russia). Defended in 2001, Kursk, Russia. |
| 41. Nadezhda A. Abramova (2000),
Master thesis | Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis under chronic inflammation in rats (National Endocrinological Research Center, Moscow, Russia). Defended in 2000, Moscow, Russia. |

Member of Medical Faculty Mannheim of Heidelberg University (since 2019 – present)
 Member (co-opted) of Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (since 2025)
 Member of Bachelor, Master and PhD theses defense committees at the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (since 2013 – present)
 Member of PhD thesis advisory committee at the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (2013 – present)
 Member of Habilitation Committee, Faculty of Biosciences, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg (2015 – present) and Regensburg University, Regensburg (2016 – present)
 Member of Selection Committee of BrainAid Master's Award for the best Master thesis in the Disciplinary Center of Neuroscience (IZN), the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (since 2020 – present).

Teaching Experience

Sorbonne University (Paris Brain Institute) and Heidelberg University (IZN) Summer School “Modeling human neuropathologies”, Pornichet, France, 7th-11th July, 2026.
 Neuroscience summer lecture series for Master students, “Hypothalamic peptides and behaviour”, the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University, 2012-2026.
 Course for Bachelor students “Neuropeptides of fear and love”, the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University, June 2012 (40 hrs), June 2013 (40 hrs), May 2014 (40 hrs), June 2015 (40 hrs), June 2016 (40 hrs), June, 2021 (40 hrs), June 2024 (40 hrs)
 Master in Neuroscience course (lecture and seminar), Oldenburg University, February 24-26 (2020)
 Workshop “Peptide regulation in system biology and its translational opportunities”, Mexico City, August 9 (2019)
 German-Israel Minerva School “Bridging the gap between genes and behavior: Neuropeptide regulation of socio-emotional behaviors”, Regensburg, June 18-20 (2019)
 Lecture series “Hormones and behavior”, School of Biosciences, Edinburgh University, October 19-20, 2017
 Lectures and seminars at Graduate School GRK 2714: Neurobiology of Emotional Disfunctions, Regensburg-Eilsbrunn, May 12-13th, 2017.
 Host of the Erasmus predoctoral fellow Ms. Zoi Gerasimina Tampouratzu (Greece), June-August, 2016
 Lecture for Master and PhD students of the DKFZ (2014-2016)
 Interdisciplinary Center of Neuroscience lectures, the Faculty of Biosciences of Heidelberg University (2012, 2014, 2016, 2023).

Lecture for PhD students of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, 2012.
 Lecture for the International Elite Master Program Experimental and Clinical Neuroscience, Regensburg University, Regensburg, Germany, 2011.
 Lecture for PhD students, Neuroscience Program, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany, 2010.
 Lecture for the International Elite Master Program Experimental and Clinical Neuroscience, Regensburg University, Regensburg, Germany, 2009.
 Lectures for the Courses of EUSynapse Consortium "Virus-mediated gene delivery into the neonatal and adult mouse brain", Max-Planck-Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, Germany, 2008.
 Lectures and seminars on Histology, Embryology, and Cell Biology, Pediatric Faculty, Russian State Medical University, Moscow, Russia, 2002-2003.
 Lectures on Integrative Medicine for senior and PhD students: "Neuro-endocrine-immune interactions: basic research and clinical applications", Pediatric Faculty, Russian State Medical University, Moscow, Russia, 2002-2003.
 Seminars on Comparative Neuroendocrinology, Biological Faculty, Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia, 1996.

Lectures on functional anatomy of neuroendocrine systems for teachers of anatomy, histology, and embryology basic courses at the Medical Schools at Universities of Russia and former Republics of the USSR, 2021, online, in Russian.

Press and TV about research of our team

Clear Sky Science based Schimmer et al., Nat Com. 2026:
https://www.clearskyscience.com/en/10.1038/s41467-026-68347-x/?utm_source=postmark&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=standard_notification
 Oxytocin in the Prefrontal Cortex: Nature Communications, 02.2026, Press Releases
 ZI: <https://www.zi-mannheim.de/institut/news-detail/oxytocin-empfindlicher-schaltkreis-im-gehirn-foerdert-soziales-verhalten-unter-koerperlicher-belastung.html>
 Engl. <https://www.zi-mannheim.de/en/institute/news/oxytocin-sensitive-brain-circuit-promotes-social-behavior-under-physiological-challenge.html>
<https://idw-online.de/de/news866376> engl. <https://idw-online.de/de/news866377>
 Japanese Society for Neuroscience Young Investigator Award for Dr. Shimpei Ishiyama (Junior Group Leader in the department):
<https://www.zi-mannheim.de/en/institute/news/exploring-positive-emotions-young-investigator-award-for-innovative-neuroscience-research.html>
 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7333145432405049345/?actorCompanyId=662415>
 Oxytocin and the somatosensory system: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YC0Y5nR4mA>
 ERC press release on selected grants: <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-synergy-grants-2022-project-highlights>
 Press release on Synergy ERC grant, CIMH: <https://www.zi-mannheim.de/en/institute/news/how-does-our-brain-integrate-space-geometry-and-territory.html>
 Press release on Synergy ERC grant, SFB 1158: <http://sfb1158.de>
<http://sfb1158.de/index.php/news2/295-erc-synergy-2022>
<https://twitter.com/sfb1158/status/1612848589050449924>
 Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center IZN Heidelberg University: <https://www.izn.uni-heidelberg.de>
 Press releases on German-Israeli Program (DIP):
<https://www.zi-mannheim.de/en/institute/news/neurobiological-mechanisms-of-loneliness.html>
 Neurobiologische Mechanismen von Einsamkeit: ZI Mannheim (zi-mannheim.de)
 Twitter: Zentralinstitut für Seelische Gesundheit auf Twitter: „Neurobiological mechanisms of loneliness: Scientists from Germany and Israel are jointly investigating neuronal and molecular changes as a result of social isolation. The lab of Valery Grinevich together with @HurlemannRene @ShlomoWagner @STsoory 🐦<https://t.co/KIURgqfAgh>
<https://t.co/Qd4ajOhgbC>“ / Twitter

Nature Neuroscience Community blog post:
<https://neurosciencecommunity.nature.com/posts/an-analgesic-pathway-from-parvocellular-oxytocin-neurons-to-the-periaqueductal-gray-in-rats>
 Interview at Neuroscience Forum NEURONUS 2022, Krakow, Poland:
<https://anchor.fm/neuronusound/episodes/N2206-Bridging-stress-and-bliss---oxytocin-excitations--An-interview-with-prof-Valery-Grinevich-about-oxytocin-e1t4jfo>
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7vWpX7V2WRjAKm9um0LnmA?si=d926c8cb3b3443b1>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hT0q54uzK7I>
 Nature Methods Research Briefing 2022: <https://rdcu.be/cWaQu>
 The INSB news, in the press release "Astrocytes, those little stars that guide our emotions" (<https://www.insb.cnrs.fr/fr/cnrsinfo/les-astrocytes-ces-petites-etoiles-qui-guident-nos-emotions>)
 Springer-Nature new book announcements (Eds. V. Grinevich and Arpad Dobolyi):
 Just published: Neuroanatomy of Neuroendocrine Systems. Congratulations to the editors Valery Grinevich and Árpád Dobolyi and all contributing authors. Find the book here: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-86630-3> #neuroendocrine
 Interested in learning about the #neuroanatomy of #hypothalamic neuroendocrine and peptidergic systems? Read our new book on the Neuroanatomy of Neuroendocrine Systems <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-86630-3>
 Read our newest book on the #Neuroanatomy of #Neuroendocrine Systems aimed at students and established researchers alike. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-86630-3> #hypothalamus #neuroendocrine
 European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Press Release: <https://www.ecnp.eu/Informationandnews/ecnp-press-office/valery-grinevich-ena-winner-2021-press-release>
 CIMH/ZI Press release: <https://www.zi-mannheim.de/en/institute/news-detail/valery-grinevich-wins-2021-ecnp-neuropsychopharmacology-award.html>
<https://www.zi-mannheim.de/institut/news-detail/valery-grinevich-erhaelt-ecnp-award.html>
 SFB 1158 website and twitter: <http://sfb1158.de/index.php/news2/273-valery-grinevich-ecnp-award>
<https://twitter.com/sfb1158/status/1403300802056359936>
 Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Center IZN: <https://www.izn.uni-heidelberg.de/>
 Faculty 1000 Opinions: <https://smex-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2ffacultyopinions.com%2fprime%2f739563430%3fsubscriptioncode%3de6b57e2b%2d1d58%2d45f2%2d880f%2d49eabf7e3714%26utm%5fmedium%3demail%26utm%5fsource%3dprime%5fypp&umid=7fca28d4-30a0-4f21-8fcb-69de915601a9&auth=9ed9a254ae8a0a504cee5b89eb68d1de87cd0c46-f025782a9217f3bc799885456c0c2a2040f01a8a>
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