

FRIAS School of Life Sciences-LifeNet strengthens partnership with Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Joint workshop “Perspectives in Developmental Neurosciences”

The School of Life Sciences – LifeNet of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) held a workshop on “Perspectives in Developmental Neurosciences” together with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The event, involving more than 40 scientists from both universities, took place at FRIAS House, Albertstrasse 19, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Developmental neurobiology is currently on the threshold to a new age. “In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, developmental neurobiology mainly described the development of the nervous system. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, research then focused on understanding the molecular and genetic control of the nervous system while today, we are trying to grasp the connections between development mechanisms and functions of the brain,” says Prof. Dr Wolfgang Driever, Internal Senior Fellow of the FRIAS School of Life Sciences - LifeNet, one of the workshop organisers. Developmental neurobiology therefore increasingly investigates the mechanisms which lead to the formation of complex neural systems, thereby contributing to the basic understanding of functions which are also explored in systemic and “computational” neuroscience.

This development was reflected in the programme for the workshop on "Perspectives in Developmental Neurosciences", which also served to assist the preparation of a new special research area in developmental neurobiology. This research area forms the subject of an application planned by Prof. Dr Kerstin Krieglstein, also Internal Senior Fellow of the School of Life Sciences – LifeNet, to the German Research Foundation (DFG) on behalf of the University of Freiburg.

The partnership established in 1981 between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Freiburg is being further strengthened by the activities of the FRIAS School of Life Sciences – LifeNet. This collaboration in the field of neuroscience is particularly special in that scientists from both the Albert Ludwig University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have been successfully researching such varied fields as developmental neurobiology, the biology of the nervous system and computational neuroscience for many years. Researchers from Jerusalem are now also working as Fellows at the FRIAS School of Life Sciences- LifeNet. In addition, a great number of representatives from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem attended the joint symposium on special research area 592 "From Signal to Structure in Embryogenesis and Organogenesis", which took place directly after the FRIAS-LifeNet workshop, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. A workshop on “Computational and Systems Neuroscience” in Jerusalem is planned for 2011 to ensure the active continuation of this partnership.