

PhD Board and BZH Meeting

PhDs for PhDs

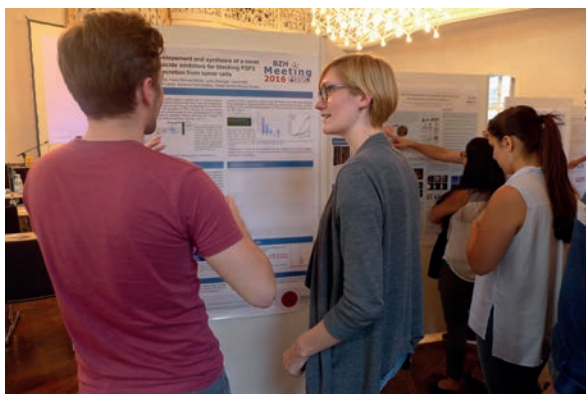
The PhD board of the BZH is a committee of PhD students - at least one person from each group at the BZH - that takes over some tasks for the benefit of all PhD students. The PhD board organizes social and scientific events for the BZH community, and arbitrates between PhDs and group leaders within the Biochemistry Centre of Heidelberg. Here, the core events in which the PhD board is involved are presented:

The group leader meeting

As part of the BZH family, we have a reserved slot in the group leader meeting to introduce topics or new ideas and to raise awareness of challenges that PhD students might face.

The BZH lecture speaker, invited by PhD students and PostDocs

On behalf of all BZH PhD students, we invite and host one speaker per year for the BZH lecture series. The PhD students choose speakers in a ranked poll. One of those speakers is then hosted



Poster session.

by the PhD board and is asked to share his or her scientific experience with junior scientists such as PhD students and young PostDocs.

Students' lunch with the BZH lecture guest speakers

As part of every guest speakers' visit at the BZH lecture series, the PhD board organizes a

common lunch with each speaker for up to ten interested PhD students and young PostDocs to meet the speaker in an informal setting. While



Lecture hall during poster session.

usually some scientific questions are addressed, the discussion focuses on the career of the speaker and his/her opinion on the research field, its future perspectives or the involved scientific community. Of course, in this context advice about scientific career planning and professional orientation in academia are extremely valuable.

Science forum

Every one or two months on a Friday evening the PhD board organizes a relaxed get-together for PhDs and PostDocs. This gives PhD students from the different groups of the BZH the opportunity to get to know each other, talk to each other, exchange ideas, get new contacts and get a feeling of how to tackle the challenges of a PhD student's life. Furthermore, it provides the PhD students with the possibility to meet people outside their group and to get to know alternative scientific approaches to overcome their experimental obstacles.

The BZH Meeting

The BZH meeting is an annual retreat for PhD students and young PostDocs of the BZH that takes place for an extended weekend. The PhD board organizes its scientific programme. During

the meeting, one PhD student from each group introduces the main topics of their group and presents their work in front of an audience of about hundred scientists in a formal presentation. Additionally, three national and international guest speakers are invited to give a keynote lecture and to participate in the rest of the scientific activities during the meeting.

Not only the speakers have the opportunity to present their work, but also all other PhD students do in the form of a poster presentation.

The BZH Meeting also includes the highly appreciated round table discussions. Here, five to six people from different groups sit together at a table and present their projects in a simple and yet comprehensive way, without technical support (slides, etc) in order to maximize feedback from other participants.

The BZH meeting serves the purpose of interconnecting the different groups of the BZH not only



Round table discussions.

scientifically but also personally, which is also encouraged through the social events of the meeting such as canoeing, hiking or board gaming.

The first BZH meeting was held in 2016 from 12th to 14th June in Kloster Schöntal (Baden-Württemberg). There were more than 50 participants with over 40 posters and ten presentations from BZH students and postdocs, in addition to three keynote lectures from guest speakers from Germany, France, and the USA.

PhD Board

E-mail: PhDBoard@bzh.uni-heidelberg.de

Web: www.bzh.uni-heidelberg.de/PhDBoard



Group photo of the participants of the BZH Meeting 2016 at Kloster Schöntal..