Welcome

We are pleased to invite you to the Opening Symposium of the Institute for Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine (KGGM) at Würzburg University Hospital.

The symposium marks the official start of the recently established KGGM in Würzburg. At the institute, we aim to strengthen genomic medicine at the interface of academic medicine and research and to support everyday clinical decision-making through interdisciplinary collaboration, advanced sequencing and analytical infrastructure, and multi-omics and AI-based approaches where they add clear value.

The program brings together perspectives ranging from population-scale reference data and complex disease genetics to precision approaches in oncology and pediatric medicine. A key focus is practical implementation of robust workflows, clinically meaningful interpretation, and responsible use in patient care. The symposium is designed to foster exchange across disciplines and career stages, with dedicated time for discussion and networking.

We warmly invite you to attend the talks, join the discussion, and connect with the speakers and participants as we open the KGGM in Würzburg.

Prof. Dr. Anke Katharina Bergmann
Director of the Institute for Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine

Prof. Dr. Tim J. von Oertzen
Medical Director, CEO

Prof. Dr. Matthias Frosch
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Philip Rieger
Director of Administration

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Symposium

Participation is free of charge.

Registration is required.
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CME Accreditation (Fortbildungspunkte)
The event has been submitted to the Bayerische Landesärztekammer (BLÄK) for CME accreditation.

Venue
University Hospital Würzburg (UKW)
Rudolf-Virchow-Zentrum (RVZ)
Research and Teaching Center
Josef-Schneider-Straße 2, Haus D15
D-97080 Würzburg, Germany

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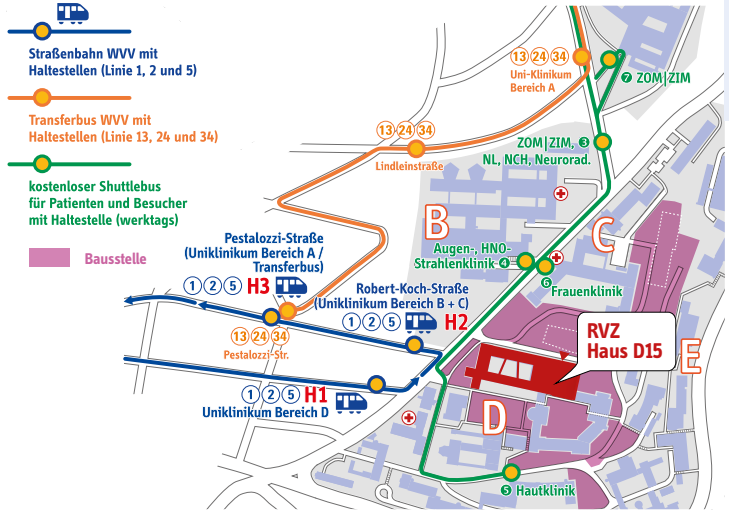

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Opening Symposium

Advancements in Genetics with Clinical Impact

Friday, 19th of June, 2026

University Hospital Würzburg (UKW)
Rudolf-Virchow-Zentrum (RVZ)

Institute of Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine

Program 19th of June, 2026

11:00 a.m.	**Introduction**
11:15 – 12:00 a.m.	**Deciphering the Genome of Europe: From Reference Data to Preventive Medicine** Prof. Dr. André G. Uitterlinden, PhD
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	**Considering the Clinical Benefits of Genetics: From Genes to Care** Prof. em. Dr. Brigitte Schlegelberger
1:15 – 2:00 p.m.	**Decoding Multifactorial Diseases: From Genetic Insights to Clinical Impact** Prof. Dr. Markus Nöthen
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	**Break / Refreshments** **Funq-Quartett** M. Hoffmeyer, M. Ghidelli, M. Gering, A. Baier
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	**Implementing Precision Medicine in Pediatric Oncology: From Genomic Mechanisms to New Therapeutic Strategies** Prof. Dr. Laura Hinze
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.	**Using Genomics Wisely in Patient Care: From Blood Counts to Gene Therapy** Prof. Dr. Ellis J. Neufeld, PhD
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	**Closing the Gaps: From Innovation to Responsibility** Prof. Dr. Anke K. Bergmann
5:00 p.m.	**Discussion with Coffee**

Speakers

André G. Uitterlinden is Professor of Complex Genetics at Erasmus MC in Rotterdam and leads the Population Genomics Laboratory and the Human Genomics Facility, one of Europe's largest genomics platforms. He is a leading figure in large international genomics consortia and has made major contributions to identifying genetic risk factors for common diseases. As a driving force behind "Genome of Europe," he is coordinating the creation of large reference genome cohorts to support genomics-informed prevention, diagnosis, and care.

Brigitte Schlegelberger (Professor Emerita) was Director of the Institute of Human Genetics at Hannover Medical School (MHH) until her retirement in 2023 and is a recognized expert in genetic diagnostics and their integration into cancer care. Her work focuses on somatic and inherited variants that shape tumor course, especially in hematologic malignancies, with a consistent emphasis on clinical translation. As former president of the German Society of Human Genetics, she advanced the integration of human genetics into patient care, prevention, and health policy.

Markus M. Nöthen is Professor of Human Genetics at the University Hospital Bonn and Director of the Institute of Human Genetics, and he is one of the most influential figures in psychiatric genetics in Europe. His research uses large-scale genetic studies to identify mechanisms and risk genes for complex mental disorders and translate findings into improved biological models and more precise risk stratification. As president of the German Society of Human Genetics, he helps shape national strategies for modern, comprehensive genomic medicine.

Laura Hinze is Professor of Translational Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and is a physician-scientist working on therapy resistance in cancer, particularly pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). She has received major recognitions, including the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize for Young Scientists (2022) and the Max Eder Young Scientists Program of German Cancer Aid (2021). Forbes has ranked her among the "30 Under 30" in science and health.

Ellis J. Neufeld is Executive Vice President, Clinical Director, and Physician-in-Chief at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, USA, combining clinical medicine with translational research to improve long-term care for children with inherited blood disorders. For more than two decades at Harvard Medical School, he identified genetic causes of congenital anemia and other rare blood disorders, advancing understanding of their molecular basis. He now leads the strategic development of clinical programs at St. Jude to accelerate implementation of new discoveries into patient care.

Anke K. Bergmann has been Director of the Institute for Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine at Würzburg University Hospital since October 1, 2025, shaping the expansion of genomic medicine at the interface of research and health care. Her work focuses on genetic and epigenetic alterations in tumors, especially childhood ALL, hematologic neoplasms, and hereditary tumor predisposition syndromes, and she played a key role in establishing the national genetic reference diagnostics for pediatric ALL, now bringing this reference laboratory to Würzburg. She also advances AI-supported genomic diagnostics and contributes to national and European initiatives to integrate genomic medicine into diagnosis, prevention, and therapy.