

## Three new EMBO members at Vienna BioCenter

**Vienna, 16 June 2017** – The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) announced today that 65 distinguished scientists were newly elected to its membership, joining a group of more than 1700 of the best life science researchers in Europe and around the world. Three of the new members are scientists at the institutes of the Vienna BioCenter (VBC): Frederic Berger, Daniel Gerlich and Elly Tanaka. This increases the number of EMBO members among current or retired VBC faculty to 22, underlining the academic excellence of this life science cluster. The Vienna BioCenter accounts for approximately two thirds of all EMBO members within Austria.

“Being elected as a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation is a great honour and mark of distinction for molecular biologists”, says Harald Isemann, Chairman of the Vienna BioCenter Association. “We are very happy to have now 22 such distinguished scientists at the VBC and we thank them and their labs for the hard work that underlies this success.”

**Frederic Berger**, a senior scientist at the Gregor Mendel Institute for Molecular Plant Biology (GMI), is untangling how histone variants organize the genome, and how these variants have evolved in plants. Originally from France, Frederic Berger joined the GMI in September 2013 from his previous position at the Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) in Singapore.

**Daniel Gerlich**, a senior scientist at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA), combines cell biology with cutting edge computer vision and machine learning to explore the fundamental processes of the cell division machinery. Originally from Germany, Daniel Gerlich joined IMBA in 2012 from his previous position at the Institute of Biochemistry at ETH Zurich.

**Elly Tanaka**, a senior scientist at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), seeks to unravel the molecular basis of limb and spinal cord regeneration and how this remarkable ability evolved. Originally from the United States, Elly Tanaka joined the IMP last September. Previously, Dr. Tanaka was director of the Centre for Regenerative Therapies of the TU Dresden (CRTD).

“Election to the EMBO Membership is recognition of research excellence, and I am pleased to welcome so many great scientists to our organisation,” said EMBO Director Maria Leptin in a press statement issued by the organisation.

An online directory with all existing and new EMBO Members is available at [people.embo.org](http://people.embo.org).

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### About Vienna BioCenter

Vienna BioCenter (VBC) is a leading life sciences location in Europe, offering an extraordinary combination of research, business and education on a single campus. About 1.700 employees, 86 research groups, 17 biotech companies, 1.300 students, and scientists from more than 40 nations create a highly dynamic environment of international standards. [www.viennabiocenter.org](http://www.viennabiocenter.org)

### About EMBO

EMBO is an organization of more than 1700 leading researchers that promotes excellence in the life sciences. The major goals of the organization are to support talented researchers at all stages of their careers, stimulate the exchange of scientific information, and help build a European research environment where scientists can achieve their best work. [www.embo.org](http://www.embo.org)

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