



IRTG 1243 Customs Retreat

October 5-7, 2016

Minutes from the IRTG 1243 meeting at the end of the retreat

Top 1: **Feedback**

- House and facilities: 👍 The Söllerhaus is a great set-up for a retreat.
- Scientific program:
 - **Talks:** guidelines from Heinrich's crash course were helpful
 - **Discussion:** We started to set up discussion guidelines/strategies (see attachment)
 - **Comments:** some comments (on sheets of paper) were helpful; some comments were too nice/too unspecific to be really helpful. If we do this again, we should encourage more critical and/or specific comments.
- Non-scientific program: The hike was good – super weather! The pub-quiz was well-received by all – should be an element in our future retreats.
- Results/ Consequences/ Suggestions:
 - Facebook group: irtg sfb 1243 (initiated by Julia N.)
 - Slack group: "IRTG 1243" (initiated by Lisa A.)
 - Lab phone number and title of project should be available on the website (Eliz)
 - Google docs table for sharing methods information and things we do not need to publicize (Eliz will set this up)

Top 2: **Announcements**

- NGS Data Analysis workshop (Ines Hellman, Nov 7-11): sign-up a.s.a.p. if you are interested
- Coping with the challenges of the PhD (Dec. 8-9): recommended for all new PhD students
- Next *1243 Fundamentals* lecture is Nov 29 with Klaus Metzeler, in the Biocenter, room G00.031 at 17:00
- Elizabeth will be organizing moderators for *1243 Fundamentals*; everyone gets a chance!
- Clarify your degree type, your doctoral supervisor, any important other program requirements, and your TAC members (with a goal for a first meeting)!

See links on our SFB website:

Important Info about program membership and enrollment

<http://www.sfb1243.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/graduate-program/important-links-and-downloads/index.html>

TAC guidelines <http://www.sfb1243.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/graduate-program/tacs/index.html>

Top 3: **Election of PhD program representatives**

Enric Redondo Monte and Julia Niggemeyer were elected as student representatives;
Bettina Lindl and Carina Steinecke are substitutes.

If anyone needs a certificate of participation, please contact Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Schroeder-Reiter, IRTG Coordinator

Discussion Guidelines – a beginning

What makes good discussion?

First, a good talk:

- 1) that the talk was understandable, well prepared,
- 2) the speaker is authentic (in particular in answering questions –do not pretend to know the answer, be honest)

At least a few good questions,

Audience remains alert, interested,

Contributions come from both speaker and audience

Strategies for discussion/ how to find your question?

- What did I not understand?
- If you are using similar approaches, make a comment related to your work/experience.
- Method question: are there alternatives to the given method? How would the speaker proceed with further methods?
- Ask a question about a related topic (even something "outside of the box")
- What is the rationale/strategy/ justification for the given approach?
- Ask a question about translational research – is there a potential application for therapy?
- Ask the speaker to speculate.
- "Zoom" questions: either zoom in on a detail of the talk, or zoom out and ask about the big picture/global relevance.

Asking questions, or contributing to discussion, is everybody's responsibility.

It is all about discourse, exchange between speaker and audience!

to be continued ...