



## Greetings from the President

Dear Young Scientists,

This fall we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Young Scientists Meeting. For the first time it will be held in Siebeldingen, where the Institute for Grapevine Breeding and the Institute for Plant Protection in Fruit Crops and Viticulture of the Julius Kühn-Institut are located.

The high registration count of 72 attendees reflects the popularity of this eagerly anticipated meeting and its importance for the young scientists' networking. That a wine tasting of the JKI's own wine creations will take place in the experimental wine cellar, might have contributed to these high numbers, if only a bit.

The tasting will be accompanied by a lecture on wine quality held by Prof. Dr. Jochen Bogs (University of Applied Sciences Bingen). In a second keynote, Dr. Katja Herzog (Julius Kühn-Institut) will provide insights in sensor-based phenotyping of grapevine. In addition, Prof. Dr. Holger Puchta's (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) lecture will revolve around CRISPR/Cas, a revolutionary technology in genetic engineering which earned their discoverers the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences.

Very valuable, especially for young scientists at the starting point of their careers, will be Dr. Ulrike Stahl's (Julius Kühn-Institut) talk on how to publish data and why. After Open Access for textual publications and Open Source for software are widely accepted, now also the Open Data movement is gaining momentum. To stay abreast of these changes and actively contribute to their progress, the JKI adopted a new data policy earlier this year.

Another recent development is the increasing use of social media among scientists to communicate and collaborate. In the run-up to this year's meeting, the organizers have tested several of these channels for their potential to raise interest in modern plant science among the general populace. To complement this, there will be a panel discussion with colleagues from the Public Relations Unit of the JKI to discuss the opportunities and risks the use of social media brings for governmental research organizations.

As every year, there will also be a soft skill seminar in advance of the scientific meeting, and fitting to the conference topic, it will be on scientific communication.

I wish all of you a successful meeting with many fruitful discussions and a pleasant stay in the heart of the Palatinate wine region and return home enriched by the experience and inspired both scientifically and socially.

Siebeldingen, November 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Backhaus', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Georg F. Backhaus  
President of the JKI

Foto: Robert Zech