

Integriertes Forschungs- und Behandlungszentrum Transplantation IFB-Tx

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Before the next starting line - we gather towards re-application

In 2007 we first introduced our concept of an integrated transplantation centre to the members of the External Advisory Board (EAB). Our main goal within the IFB program was to foster scientific excellence in clinical research, to strengthen translational research and to increase international competitiveness of transplantation research in Hannover. We were able to establish on the already existing foundations of clinical research a successful clinical research program. The clinical studies which were started within the IFB-Tx have gained national and international acceptance. Of major interest was the development of an attractive career program for young doctors in clinical research. The IFB-Tx was facing major problems because clinical research within the existing structures of German medicine is not easy. We established new structures for young doctors and successfully introduced many of them into transplantation research. Clinical programs were influenced by the IFB-Tx in a major way. Without the IFB-Tx we would not have been able to establish interdisciplinary clinical wards where transplanted patients are seen by the different specialties together. In addition, the new structures such as the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which we introduced, are now fully in action and have proven themselves as useful instruments for self-administration of research and clinical projects. In summary, the IFB-Tx is flourishing, active and we are well underway. On the other hand we are still facing major problems. The establishment of the Core facilities for clinical research in the transplantation area was successful. However, several of our researchers have already left the MHH and the IFB-Tx for new horizons. These changes of personnel hamper the development of the IFB-Tx and force us to adapt to new situations.

In 2012 the IFB-Tx has successfully applied for a second funding period to further pursue excellence in transplantation clinical research at the Hannover Medical School. Our strategic plan for the re-application was presented and outlined to the EAB in January 2012. The members of the IFB-Tx and its boards had a successful retreat in October 2011. During this meeting a strategy for the re-application was developed. Based on an analysis of strength and weaknesses of the IFB-Tx and its development over the last 4 years we have structured the new IFB-Tx according to the primary goals adjusted to the situation in 2012. The strategic goals of the new IFB-Tx will still be the same:

Excellent and focussed clinical research, integration of clinical programs and, most importantly, the recruitment of young doctors and scientists into an attractive career development program in transplantation research.