



messerli
Research Institute

Annual Report **2017**

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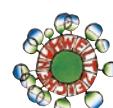
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Contents

04 Statements

06 Editorial

08 The Messerli Research Institute at a glance

- 09 Organisation chart
- 10 The Team
- 12 The Foundation Board
- 13 The Scientific Advisory Board

14 Research

- 14 Targets
- 15 Comparative Cognition
- 18 Comparative Medicine
- 21 Ethics and Human-Animal Studies
- 24 Examination and Coordination Centre
- 25 Animal Law at the Messerli Research Institute

26 Teaching

- 26 Interdisciplinary Master in Human-Animal Interactions (IMHAI)
- 28 Further courses
- 30 PhD and doctoral students

32 Engagement in committees

34 Grants and Awards

36 Cooperation & International Engagement

44 Society & Public Relations

46 Events

48 Infrastructure

50 Social Events

Statements

2017



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Heinz Faßmann

Minister of Education, Science and Research

The Messerli Research Institute stands for expertise and interdisciplinary collaboration. The institute's broad interdisciplinary approach and strong international focus distinguish this renowned university competence centre, which has become an essential part of the Austrian research landscape. Its social function of supporting people in their responsibility towards animals on a scientific basis is also very important. All the best and continued success for the future!



Petra Winter

Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

The Messerli Research Institute combines the expertise of three universities in Vienna. This interdisciplinary work provides answers to the numerous socially relevant questions which arise from the cohabitation of animals and humans and the related manifold interaction. The institute's unique focus is particularly valuable because it enables innovative perspectives and approaches regarding contents for scientists and students. During the reporting year, mutual connections with the partner universities and substantial collaboration could be further strengthened, which benefits teaching and research, as well as society.



Markus Müller

Rector of the Medical University of Vienna

The Messerli Research Institute is a good example of how collaboration between universities in one city can lead to an outstanding and internationally renowned competence centre. The Messerli Research Institute has become an essential part of the Austrian research landscape and is exemplary for a successful bridge between human and veterinary medicine, as well as between humanities and natural sciences.



Heinz W. Engl

Rector of the University of Vienna

Through their research into the human-animal relationship and its foundations in the fields of cognition and behaviour of animals, comparative medicine and ethics, the Messerli Research Institute provides a scientific basis to turn the spotlight on a responsible treatment of animals. This topic requires the collaboration of different disciplines. The collaboration of the three universities involved has proved successful and should be strengthened towards the neuroscientific foundations – together with corresponding research focuses at the universities involved.



Heinz Schweizer

President of the Messerli Foundation

The Messerli Foundation wants to support the well-being of animals and is convinced that scientific research into the human-animal relationship can be useful in this regard. The research centre funded for this purpose is located at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, which had been commissioned to establish and head this institute after an international call in 2010 and has become an internationally renowned competence centre. Its research results documented in this publication attract interest far beyond the academic world. The Master's programme in Human-Animal Interactions is unique in Europe. The Foundation would like to thank all those who contributed to this success.



Peter Sandøe

Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board

I am happy to see that the research of all the three units has made good progress during 2017 and that the MRI has consolidated itself as an integrated part of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna with lively relations to the partner universities. I would like to emphasize here the work of the Comparative Medicine unit on allergies at the interface between companion animals and their owners, and the work of the Ethics and Human-Animal Studies unit regarding veterinary ethics. Also, I want to emphasize the ongoing effort to put the science based knowledge about dog behaviour originating in the Comparative Cognition unit to use in setting up behavioural medicine up as new field of study and teaching at the University of Veterinary Medicine.

Editorial

2017

Ideas find their ways

Herwig Grimm

Spokesperson of the Messerli Research Institute

In my position as spokesperson of the Messerli Research Institute (MRI) it is my pleasure to introduce the annual report 2017 and highlight a few points that characterised the past year. Our institute's idea as defined in our mission statement has increasing appeal on an international level. Quite rightly we can say that there is international interest in our work; partners from all over the world cooperate with us. This is particularly due to the MRI's extraordinary profile and structure. Collaboration and exchange between natural sciences and humanities, like it is common practice at our institute, reveals an aspect of research into human-animal interaction and its foundations which is not possible in other locations. In most other locations, this diversity under a single roof like the Messerli house, which enables new ideas, requires effortful searching and the overcoming of spatial and institutional borders. Therefore: No matter if it is the work with our pigs on Haidlhof, with wolves, keas or dogs, the work on allergies that connect humans and animals under the term "one health", research into the philosophical and moral foundations of the human-animal relationship and the use of this knowledge in veterinary ethics, etc. – we work on all these questions with an interdisciplinary and innovative research profile.



© Fritz Beck

The various forms of cooperation in projects, conferences, networks, publications, courses and commissions show that this kind of research is interesting for a large scientific community that appreciates our work. But not only the scientific community is interested in our work: The MRI with its Examination and Coordination Centre for dogs attracts the attention of the general public and has a significant impact through different projects, for example in the field of therapy dogs.

All results and achievements, which can only be sketched in this report, start as ideas that have to find their time and supporters in order to become reality. According to Victor Hugo:

“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.”

And one would like to add:

“... and finds people who dedicate themselves to it.”

This year I would like to close this editorial with thanking all our supporters and particularly our staff who dedicate themselves to the idea of the Messerli Research Institute – to support people in their responsibility towards animals on a scientific basis. I’m doing this also in my position as spokesperson of the institute. At the end of 2017, my three-year term of office has ended. I can confidently say that the past three years were good years. I would like to thank all those who have made a contribution to this success. I wish Univ.-Prof. Dr. Erika Jensen-Jarolim, who is going to take office now, all the best. I’m happy to support her initiatives for the further development of the Messerli Research Institute.

I hope that the readers will enjoy reading this report and would like to thank all members of the institute for their great commitment to realise the idea of the Messerli Research Institute time and again and carry it far beyond Austria’s borders.



The Messerli Research Institute at a glance

2017

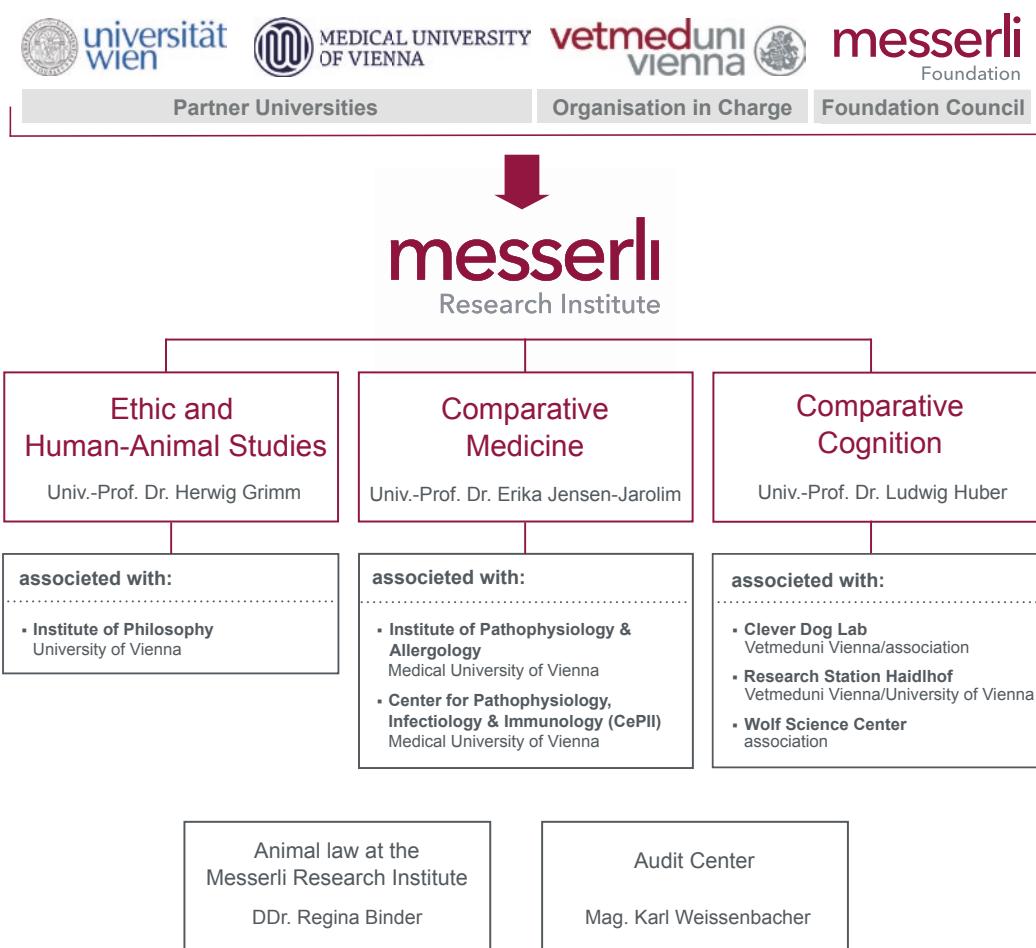
The Messerli Research Institute was founded in 2010, with support from the Messerli Foundation (Sorenberg, Switzerland), under the management of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, in cooperation with the Medical University of Vienna and the University of Vienna. The professors for the first three units (Comparative Cognition, Comparative Medicine, Ethics and Human-Animal Studies) were appointed in autumn 2011. In March 2012, the institute was officially opened. The work at the Messerli Research Institute has four cornerstones:

- **Research:** The research is devoted to the interaction between humans and animals, as well as its theoretical principles in animal cognition and behaviour, comparative medicine and ethics.
- **Teaching:** Research findings are an integral part of the academic curriculum in the Master's programme and are also designed to provide guidelines for the responsible and acceptable treatment of animals.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** The institute's work is characterised by its broad interdisciplinary approach (biology, human medicine, veterinary medicine, philosophy, psychology, law) and strong international focus.
- **Practice:** Thus, the Messerli Research Institute considers providing scientific information to aid people responsible in the field of human-animal interactions one of its main responsibilities.



Organisation chart

The Messerli Research Institute has its headquarters at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. It is associated with the rectorate and represented by its spokesperson. It comprises three units, each headed by a fully employed professor. The professors have double appointments at the University of Veterinary Medicine and at one of the partner universities (Medical University of Vienna and University of Vienna). Furthermore, the accessory service units Coordinating Office “Dog trainer in accordance with animal welfare” and “Animal Law” are associated with the Messerli Research Institute. Five associated centres work in cooperation with the partner universities.





The Team

Each of the three units of the Messerli Research Institute has one chair, scientific assistant positions, one administrative assistant position and – at the two natural science units – technical posts. Furthermore, there is an IT office and one administrative assistant supporting all three units. The Unit of Comparative Medicine has one administrative position for the Unit “Comparative Immunology and Oncology” at the Medical University of Vienna. By the end of 2017, the staff comprised 37.1 positions on a full-time equivalent basis, 16.6 of which were permanently employed, and 20.5 were financed by third-party sources. Further scientists, who are not counted at this point, work at the institute’s associated centres.





The Foundation Board



From left to right:

- Heinz Schweizer, President of the Messerli Foundation
- Hans Hengartner
- Dominique Ammann
- Ulrich Fässler
- Adrian von Segesser

The members of the Messerli Foundation Board have been accompanying the Messerli Research Institute since its foundation with great commitment and sympathy. The institute's thriving has thankfully become their personal concern.

The Scientific Advisory Board



From left to right:

- Peter Sandøe (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board
- Nikola Biller-Andorno (University of Zurich, Switzerland)
- Christine Nicol (University of Bristol, UK)
- Sabine Werner (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
- Georg Wick (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

The Scientific Advisory Board of the MRI is the external advisory body to assure scientific quality, up-to-date research and focusing of the research at the MRI. The main issues are the strategic orientation of the research, the institute's international position and networking.

Research

2017

Targets

The Messerli Research Institute develops and broadens scientific findings for the cohabitation of humans and animals. Current questions about the complex relationship between humans and animals and its principles are investigated from a biological, medical and ethical perspective.

Research in Context

The Messerli Research Institute works at the interface between three universities in Vienna: the University of Veterinary Medicine, the Medical University and the University of Vienna. It integrates the universities' existing knowledge and expertise into its own work. Alternatively, research and teaching at the three universities benefit from the institute's research findings and results.

Interdisciplinary research

Interdisciplinarity and high specialisation shape the Messerli Research Institute's unique profile. The institute's three units have their own specific research agendas with a considerable number of projects funded by competitive grants. Interdisciplinary research cooperation between the units and with other institutions is strategically important. In the following, selected examples will detail the research topics at each unit.



Comparative Cognition

How do animals think and feel?

Comparative cognition promotes empirical knowledge about cognitive, emotional and social skills in non-human animals. Thus, the unit contributes – besides basic findings – to raising awareness of the status of animals and improving the relationship between humans and animals. The unit's portfolio comprises both domestic (dogs, pigs, horses, pigeons) and wild animals (wolves, keas, cockatoos, capuchin monkeys, frogs, salamanders). Research into these species is done both in the lab and in the open field in a non-invasive way. The main fields of research in 2017 were:

- Cognitive and social abilities of dogs and wolves
- Technical and social abilities of birds and monkeys
- Flexible behaviour and memory in amphibia
- Socio-cognitive abilities of pigs

Staff





Research projects – highlights

Social learning and knowledge sharing in pigs

Pigs live in families and have very close social relationships. Furthermore, they are very adaptive. But the combination of both – learning from each other – has hardly been investigated in these animals so far. The few available studies suggested that pigs only take simple information – for example, about the location of food – by observing others. If the problem is more complex, however, it would be better to gain more detailed knowledge from older and more experienced group members. The Comparative Cognition unit proved this in a study, which was carried out in a project funded by

the Messerli Foundation. In this study, kune-kune pigs – an open field species from New Zealand – kept on Haidlhof in the open field were tested. The young animals learned from their mothers or aunts how to open a sliding door in order to get their desired food. Additionally, they were able to permanently save the important information – both direction and location information – and apply it themselves one day later. It seems as if the natural, stimulating environment (kept in the open field) and the opportunity to establish a natural community of pigs had revealed the extent of the animals' social intelligence, which is inherent in their disposition. These surprising findings about the cross-generational sharing of knowledge in pigs were published by Ariane Veit in her Master's thesis and later in the journal *Animal Behaviour*.

Young pig Zoe opens the sliding door in the same way as her mother Zora.



Photo: © Ariane Veit

Wolf cognition: from understanding the rules of causality to remembering humans

Dogs belong to the most popular research topics in animal cognition, but we only know little about how wolves think. What do wolves know and understand about the physical and social world around them? Zsófia Virányi and her international team showed that wolves are able to use causal hints to conclude where food can be found. This is an ability that seems to be missing in dogs. From two containers, wolves successfully chose the one that made a noise as soon as it was shaken; they preferably looked under a slanting form instead of a flat one. On the contrary, dogs chose rather randomly one of these two locations. This was observed in both dogs living as pets and dogs

living, similar to wolves, in packs in large enclosures. These findings, which were published in *Nature's Scientific Reports*, showed that evolutionary adaptations contribute more to the development of causal conclusions than individual experience. Another study was published in *Royal Society Open Science* and showed that wolves have a good memory for social information. It was found that wolves raised by humans do not only recognise their caretakers out of others but also remember a person they have met only one single time for five minutes. These abilities are probably crucial for wolves to successfully adapt to different environments and have a flexible social life.

Wolves raised by humans welcome people in a different way after their first and second encounter



Photo: © Monty Sloan



Comparative Medicine

Immune balance for humans and animals

The immune system maintains health and provides protection against infections, but it should be in a balance. According to the one-health concept, the shared environment significantly contributes to maintaining or damaging human and animal health.

Allergens in the environment can cause the immune system to get out of control and overreact: Highly potential immune defence mechanisms

are directed against harmless substances such as pollen, dust mites or food and make us sick. On the contrary, the immune defence comes to a halt in cancer and promotes tumour growth. AllergoOncology investigates the distinct contrasts between allergies and cancer. The unit is strongly involved in this new international field of research and committed to advance it. The team consequently compares humans and domestic animals, who can develop both allergies and tumours, in order to learn how immune balance and immune protection can be recovered.

Staff



<http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/science/comparative-medicine/staff-members/>



Research projects – highlights

Overstrained immune system in food allergies

The Unit of Comparative Medicine has acquired profound expertise in the field of food allergies over the years. In a recent European position paper, the state of the art of food allergies in human and animal patients has been ascertained for the first time. An international panel of experts compared mechanisms, common diagnosis and current therapies (Pali-Schöll et al., Allergy 2017). The aim of this work was to raise awareness for nutrition being an

essential factor when humans share their environment with animals – according to the “one health” issue. Isabella Pali-Schöll contributed with her expertise in food allergies to a work group of the Federal Ministry of Health, resulting in the publication of a new guideline on the ethically and ecologically relevant topic “Eatable insects as an alternative food source for humans and animals”. In fact, insects have a significant allergenic potential, which could impair the realisation of the concept. Very successful press releases showed the current public interest in food and allergies.

Leitlinie

für gezüchtete Insekten als Lebensmittel

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Contrasting immune mechanisms in allergies and cancer

Networking is important in immunology. Intensive searching, student exchange and workshops on AllergoOncology in a European group of experts resulted in three top publications led by the Comparative Medicine unit (Jensen-Jarolim E.: Allergy 1, Allergy 2, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 2017). The findings also inspired cooperation and original works, where IgG and IgE immune globulins, which are normally only known in the context of allergies, can be quickly produced synthetically through new cloning technology and targeted against cancer antigens (Ilieva et al., Front. Immunology 2017). This technology was brought from London to Vienna by Judit Fazekas-Singer and has been successfully applied to the cloning of a particular IgE immune globulin against cancer in dogs (Ms. in review).

While immune globulin therapies in humans have long been established in clinics, this is still a long way off for our domestic animals. But there is in fact a great need for possibilities to intervene not only through chemotherapy and radiotherapy but also immunologically in a careful way. In her PhD thesis, Judit Fazekas developed a radioactively marked IgG immune globulin against the cancer antigen "EGFR" in cooperation with the Section of Radiopharmacy at the Medical University of Vienna. This immune globulin is 92% identical in dogs and humans (Fazekas-Singer et al., Oncotarget 2017). Through this tracer, tumour cells are detected and killed on the spot. The immune globulin is currently tested in the renowned Comparative Oncology Trial Program of the US National Cancer Institutes. Thus, the course is set for clinical translation.

The AllergoOncology Task Force of the EAACI

From left to right: Heather Bax, Monika Raulf, Liam O'Mahony, Jozef Janda, Franziska Roth-Walter, Karin Hartmann, Sophia Karagiannis, Erika Jensen-Jarolim, Eva Untersmayr, Giulia Pelizzari, Frank Redegeld, Mano Nakamura, Rodolfo Bianchini, Christoph Bergmann, Anthony Cheung



Ethics and Human-Animal Studies

In the Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies, the year 2017 was particularly characterised by internationalisation and networking in the field of veterinary ethics. Collaboration in teaching was increasingly expanded towards Eastern Europe; a “Network Veterinary Ethics” for the German-speaking area was established. The main focus of the unit is still on the philosophical reflexion of the responsibility towards animals in practice and its foundations. We reflect the responsibilities of veterinarians, as well as questions about the agricultural use of animals, animal testing and keeping of domestic animals. Furthermore, we focus on basic questions such as the ethical relevance of veterinary cognition or new approaches in ethics of human-animal interaction.

Staff



<http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/science/ethik/staff/>



Photo: © Dr. Michael Bernkopf / Vetmeduni Vienna

Research projects – highlights

Focus: Veterinary ethics

The Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies is currently working on several projects in the field of veterinary ethics. Four examples of this young discipline:

(1) In the project “Vethics E-Portfolio”, funded by the Federal Ministry of Health and Women’s Affairs, an ethics e-learning format is developed for veterinary officers, veterinarians and students of veterinary medicine. (2) In the project “The Internal Morality of the Veterinary Profession”, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the moral self-conception of the profession is analysed (using the example of high-tech in veterinary medicine). (3) International exchange is strived for in various projects and conferences: VetNEST (Veterinary Network of European Student and Staff Transfer) intensifies the dialogue – also on ethical questions – between the veterinary universities of Brno, Budapest, Košice, Ljubljana and Vienna. To support young scientists in the German-speaking area, the Network Veterinary Ethics was founded on November 9, 2017. Furthermore, the international EurSafe conference “Professionals in the food chain” has been prepared last year (takes place June 13-16, 2018 at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna). (4) Additionally, there is a range of smaller and larger projects as qualification works, such as the PhD project “Towards a Philosophy of Veterinary Medicine”, which starts from veterinary practice to develop theories in the framework of current animal philosophy.



Photo: © Dr. Michael Bernkopf / Vetmeduni Vienna

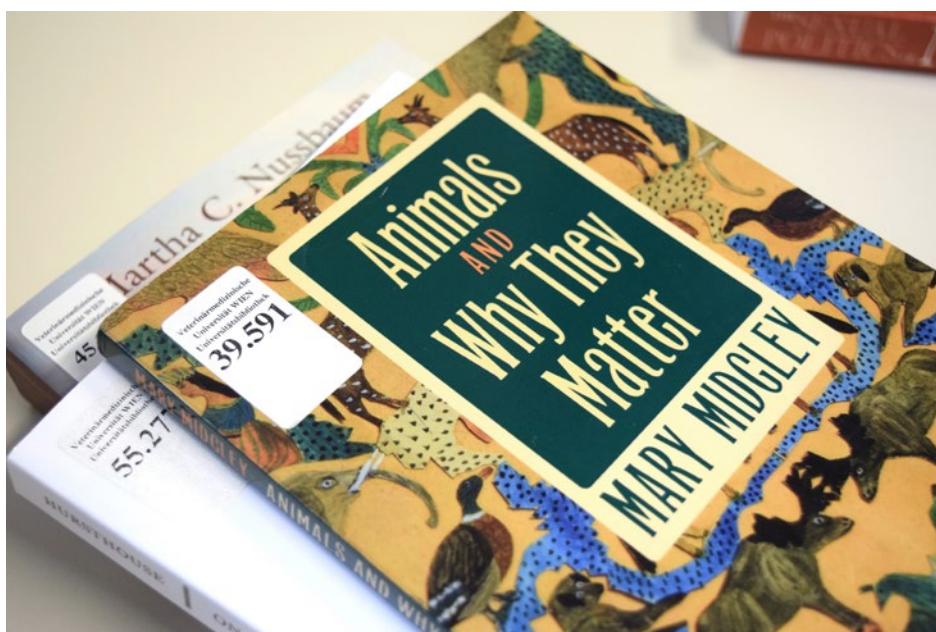
Equine Hospital

Doc.funds: Forms of Normativity – Transitions and Intersections (FoNTI)

The Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies took successfully part in an application for “doc.funds” of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), which is a new competitive funding instrument to expand excellent doctoral programmes. Headed and coordinated by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schmid (University of Vienna), the project “Forms of Normativity – Transitions and Intersections” was submitted. Out of 44 reviewed applications and based on written reviews by international experts, 16 consortia were invited to a hearing in front of an international jury. Our project, one of seven, convinced the jury.

In this project, the focus of the MRI is on the sources of normativity in different theoretical approaches to animal ethics. An essential point will be to analyse moral individualism and relationalism in animal ethics and systematically compare them. Both theories are currently in the heart of the debate, but also other approaches such as the so-called Wittgenstein relationalism are increasingly adopted. The central idea of this sub-project is to reveal the sources and forms of normativity in the different approaches and make them applicable to the overall question of the project.

University library





Examination and Coordination Centre

Assistance and therapy dogs

The Examination Centre at the Messerli Research Institute to implement the Austrian Disability Act including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the field of assistance dogs is unique in Europe and beyond. Meanwhile it is generally accepted. Besides talks by the head of the Centre, Karl Weissenbacher, at international conferences of institutions such as Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or the European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF), also governmental organisations such as the German, the Estonian and – towards the end of the year – also the Swedish Ministry of Social Affairs contact the Centre for information. The innovative work in the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to develop a single European norm in the field of assistance dogs was successfully continued. Furthermore, the Examination Centre won the Europe-wide tender of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection up to the year 2022.

In the field of animal welfare, a diploma thesis supervised by the Examination Centre got the animal welfare grant of the Vienna Ombuds-person's Office for Animal Protection.

Assistance dogs



Karl Weissenbacher



In its core field of examinations, 698 therapy dog teams and 39 assistance dogs were successfully examined in 2017.

Dog trainer in accordance with animal welfare

The Examination and Coordination Centre has become an indispensable public information office for all sorts of media – print, online, radio and TV. Likewise, Ombudsperson's offices for animal protection, regional governments and ministries contact the Centre for information regarding dog-related issues. Therefore, Karl Weissenbacher was co-opted into the permanent work group of the Animal Protection Council.

31 trainers were examined in 2017, 12 of which did not pass. One trainer was deprived of the quality seal due to a violation of the quality guidelines. 13,000 hours of vocational training were approved. This improves the quality and deepens the knowledge of Austria's trainers.

Certificate ceremony with Rector Petra Winter, Head of Department Pallinger from the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Daniela Macho with her dog Coco



Animal Law at the Messerli Research Institute

Animal Law is an issue in teaching and research at the Messerli Research Institute, particularly focusing on general animal welfare legislation and animal testing legislation. This field is headed by Regina Binder, who also heads the Information and Documentation Office for Animal Welfare and Veterinary Law at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. The Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies and the Unit of Comparative Medicine have several areas

of interdisciplinary collaboration with this field. This collaboration comprises mainly teaching in the Master's programme IMHAI and the scientific discussion of questions arising from current publications and projects. The normative foundations of the various forms of human-animal interaction and their relationship to empirical findings in natural science are central in this cooperation.



Interdisciplinary Master in Human-Animal Interactions (IMHAI)

One of the major targets of the institute is the appropriate training of young experts who are able to evaluate and shape human-animal interactions in an ethically reflected way and on a scientific basis. Therefore, the three units of the Messerli Research Institute, together with the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare, designed an international Master's programme in spring 2012 that is taught in English and unique in its broad interdisciplinary approach. Considering the experiences of the first years, a reform process was initiated in 2016 in which teachers and students are involved. The programme will keep its interdisciplinary approach to human-animal interactions.

In the course of their studies, students focus on one of the following fields: Animal Behaviour and Cognition, Comparative Medicine from Pathophysiology to Clinical Trials, Animal Husbandry and Welfare, Legal Framework of Human-Animal Interactions, as well as Ethics and Human-Animal Studies. This Master's degree qualifies graduates for both academic careers and careers in all socially relevant fields of human-animal interaction. Towards the end of the year, intensive work and workshops to re-structure the IMHAI programme have started.

<http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/teaching/>



Seven graduates completed their studies in 2017:

Doris Köbrunner "Husbandry and welfare of pet ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) and owners' attitudes: a questionnaire survey" (BetreuerInnen: Susanne Waiblinger, Birgit U. Stetina)

Irene Zimpernik "Morphological investigations on prehistoric and historic pig remains from Austrian archaeological sites" (BetreuerInnen: Alfred Galik, Isabel Hennig-Pauka)

Christina Pranger "Effects of acute stress on the reliability of skin prick testing and mediator release: clinical study in healthy and allergic volunteers using the Trier social stress test" (BetreuerInnen: Erika Jensen-Jarolim, Eva Untersmayr-Elsenhuber)

Marie-Theres Schlemmer "Denying animals to be subjects: the case of objectification of animals used for meat production. A philosophical analysis of a psychological phenomenon" (BetreuerInnen: Herwig Grimm, Gabriela Kom-patscher-Gufler)

Bettina Kliesspiess "Animal Protection vs. Species Conservation – An analysis of Clare Palmer's theory about moral consideration of wild animals in relation to wildlife managements and alien species" (BetreuerInnen: Herwig Grimm, Christian Walzer)

Julia Schindlbauer "Effect of owner's presence on object-manipulation in former shelter and family dogs: a sign of different attachment?" (BetreuerInnen: Zsófia Virányi, Michael Leschnik)

Julia Grünwald "Help the helper: Health promotion by means of short physical exercise sequences for employees of the University of Veterinary Medicince, Vienna" (BetreuerInnen: Theresia Licka, Christine Iben)



Photo: © Ernst Hammerschmid/Vetmeduni Vienna

Academic ceremony in the University's Ceremony Hall on December 15, 2017: graduates of the Master's programme IMHAL
Julia Grünwald, Bettina Kliesspiess,
Marie-Theres Schlemmer



Photo: © i23RF.com

Further courses

Staff members of the Messerli Research Institute did not only teach in the Interdisciplinary Master's in Human-Animal Interaction, but also in the programmes at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, as well as at other universities and schools. This contributes to the institute's visibility and network, especially with its partner universities. Cooperation for teaching leads to permanent and intense exchange with the partner universities.

Staff of the Comparative Cognition unit taught courses at the University of Veterinary Medicine (veterinary diploma, modules laboratory animal and experimental animal science, university course Applied Cynology), as well as at the University of Vienna (Bachelor's level Biology, Master's level Behaviour, Neurobiology

and Cognition Research). Additionally, several Master's and PhD projects were supervised at both universities. 45 Master's, 15 diploma and 2 Bachelor's theses in total were supervised in the Comparative Cognition unit in 2017, 18 of which were successfully completed.

Members of the Comparative Medicine unit teach at the Medical University of Vienna in the medical curriculum, in the PhD programmes "Immunology", "MCCA" and "CCHD", as well as at the University of Veterinary Medicine in the IMHAI programme and in courses for veterinarians, including the mentoring programme for first year students. Franziska Roth-Walter introduced these students to science in 2017. It is also worth mentioning that the second textbook to complete the offered courses in the field of comparative medicine was published with Springer Nature.



Internal workshop on the IMHAI reform:
Karin Hufnagl, Erika Jensen-Jarolim, Isabella Pali.
The new Comparative Medicine II book is
going to play an important role in the reform
of the curriculum.

Team members from the Ethics and Human-Animal Studies unit taught courses in veterinary ethics at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, the University of Zagreb (at a summer school in Dubrovnik), the FU Berlin, the Veterinary Faculty of Ljubljana and in the training of veterinary officers in Bavaria. At the Department of Philosophy of the University of Vienna, team members taught in the field of practical philosophy. Members also taught in a ring lecture on human-animal studies at the University of Innsbruck. 15 Master's and diploma theses in total were supervised at the University of Vienna and at the University of Veterinary Medicine, 6 of which were successfully completed.

Research presentation of the Ethics and Human-Animal Studies unit
at a workshop in Ljubljana



PhD and doctoral students

DK programme Cognition and Communication 2:

Vienna has become a centre of comparative research into behaviour and cognition. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) supports this development by funding a multistage, integrative and fully funded PhD training programme on cognition and communication in humans and non-human animals. Huber (deputy spokesperson) and Range are faculty members together with colleagues from the University of Vienna.

The Unit of Comparative Cognition supervised 18 PhD projects in 2017, 5 of which were successfully completed: Anjuli Barber, Marianne Heberlein, Désirée Brucks, Jennifer Essler and Rachel Dale. Further PhD projects focus on domestic dogs (Jim McGetrick, Soon Young Park, Durga Chapagain), wolves and dogs (Martina, Lazzaroni, Akshay Rao, Hoi-Lam Jim, Gwen Wirowski), pigs (Marianne Wondrak) and keas (Amelia Wein, Amanda Greer). The doctoral students were supervised by Ludwig

Huber, Friederike Range, Zsófia Virányi, Sarah Marshall, Raoul Schwing, Eva Ringler and Alice Auersperg.

DK programme Comparative Medicine – MCCA:

The prolongation of the doctoral programme MCCA (Molecular, Clinical and Cellular Allergology) within the Vienna Allergy Cluster was approved by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). In July, Verena Köhler and Christina Pranger started their studies in this programme.

Judit Fazekas in the doctoral programme “Cellular Communication in Health and Disease” (CCHD) worked with Prof. Karagiannis at King’s College London; Jelena Gotovina (CCHD) with Prof. Marshall, Dalhousie University, Canada; Ina Herrmann (PhD programme of the University of Veterinary Medicine) worked with Dr. Bäumer at the State University College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina. Sherienne Afify prolonged her stay in Vienna in the Joint PhD Program of the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education.



The ten supervisors of the DK programme Cognition and Communication 2

DK programme Forms of Normativity:

The Department of Philosophy of the University of Vienna raised funding for a DK programme of the Austrian Science Fund FWF (doc.funds) in which the Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies is involved. There will be several PhD projects under the title “Forms of Normativity – Transitions and Intersections”. One of these projects will particularly analyse the sources of normativity in the field of human-animal interaction.

In the Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies, Herwig Grimm supervised six scientists in different doctoral programmes in 2017: Kerstin Weich, Svenja Springer and Samuel Camenzind in the PhD programme of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Svenja Springer and Anne Zintsch in the doctoral programme of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Andreas Aigner in the doctoral programme of the University of Vienna and, as a co-supervisor, Matthias Eggel in the PhD programme of the University of Zurich. Svenja Springer has been working in a double PhD in cooperation with the University of Copenhagen since 2017, supervised by Herwig Grimm (Vienna) and Peter Sandøe (Copenhagen).

MCCA faculty and students are happy after the new recruitment in July



Jelena Gotovina reporting from her stay in Canada



Engagement in committees

Highlights

Members of the Unit of Comparative Cognition have been engaged in national and international committees. At the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Ludwig Huber is a member of the Senate, the Curriculum Commission for several study programmes (including IMHAI), the Scientific Advisory Board of the Animals for Therapy curriculum, and the Coordination Board of the Teaching and Research Farms Kremesberg (LFG). On an international level, he is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute for Advanced Sciences Berlin (WIKO). Friederike Range and

Zsófia Virányi head the Wolf Science Center and, together with Ludwig Huber, the association "Clever Dog Lab".

Besides engagement in committees such as the Scientific Advisory Board of the Danube University Krems, the Codex Commission of the Federal Ministry of Health or editorial boards, the boards of task forces and interest groups of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) are particularly important for the Comparative Medicine unit. Being engaged in these boards enables the members to actively shape the future of allergology in a creative way. The Interest

Herwig Grimm at the annual conference of the Work Group for Medical Library Work (AGMB)



Photo: © Ernst Hammerschmid / Vetmeduni Vienna

Group of Comparative and Veterinary Allergy consequently compares humans and animals. The group also heads the Task Force of Allergo-Oncology and AiAT (adjuvants in allergen-immunotherapy). Part of the work in 2017 was the organisation of business meetings and workshops in London and Vienna. An important output of the network was the publication of EAACI position papers led by the Comparative Medicine unit.

The staff of the Ethics and Human-Animal Studies unit were engaged in panels at local, national and international levels in 2017. Herwig Grimm and Martin Huth were appoint-

ed to the Committee on Animal Testing (according to § 36 TVG). Furthermore, Herwig Grimm was appointed to the Committee for Ethics in Science of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Members of the unit are also engaged in boards of relevant scientific journals such as *Zeitschrift für praktische Philosophie*, *Tierstudien* and others. After three years in office as spokesperson of the institute, Herwig Grimm hands over his office to Erika Jensen-Jarolim.

Herwig Grimm at a meeting of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Photo: © FAO (Giuseppe Carotenuto)

Grants and Awards

2017

- **Anjuli Barber** got the Award of Excellence, the national award of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy for the best doctoral theses in Austria. For her thesis, which was supervised by Ludwig Huber and funded by the WWTF, she investigated how dogs process and discriminate human emotions.
- **Mark O'Hara** got a three-year Erwin Schrödinger Fellowship by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) to investigate the cognitive ecology of Goffin's cockatoos at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences in Bogor.

Erwin Schrödinger fellow Mark O'Hara in the tropical rainforest of the Indonesian island Tanimbar, searching for Goffin's cockatoos



Photo: © Beerenika Mloduszewska

Anjuli Barber (middle) with Ludwig Huber and Iris Rauskala, Head of Department VI of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy



Photo: © Willy Haslinger

- Two PhD students from the Comparative Cognition unit got fellowships by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW): **Amelia Wein** for the project "Imitation in Kea (*Nestor notabilis*)" and **Jim McGetrick** for the project "Investigating the Proximate Mechanisms Underlying Reciprocity in Non-Human Animal Species Using Domestic Dogs as a Model".
- **Ludwig Huber** got the Best Presentation Award of the 4th International Conference on Animal-Computer Interaction in Milton Keynes, UK

ÖAW fellow Amelia Wein with Georg Brasseur, President of the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the ÖAW

ÖAW fellow Jim McGetrick





Publications of the Comparative Medicine with front pages of the journals Allergy, Allergologie and Metallomics.

- Three front pages and media coverage honoured the work of the Comparative Medicine unit in 2017. The cover regarding the position paper on AllergoOncology was used as an eye catcher in an exhibition of the Wiley publisher at the EAACI conference in Helsinki.
- Student members of the Comparative Medicine unit got several Outstanding Abstract Awards, Travel Awards and Research Fellowship Awards. These awards enabled research stays at renowned institutions: Judit Fazekas worked at King's College in London and Jelena Gotovina in the lab of Prof. Jean Marshall at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada.

■ **Christian Dürnberger**, Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies, got the Vetucation® Award 2017 in the category “Projects in progress” for the project “Vethics E-Portfolio”, funded by the Federal Ministry of Health and Women’s Affairs. The award is worth 1,500 euro and honours innovative, online-based ideas to improve teaching at the University of Veterinary Medicine.

■ This summer **Susana Monsó** received the Outstanding Doctorate Award from the National Distance Education University (UNED), Madrid, where she did her PhD. This award is granted every year to the best PhD students of the university.

Animal welfare fellow
Simone Bruckner

Vetucation®-Award 2017, Christian Dürnberger with Vice-Rector Karin Kneissl and Mehrzad Hamzelo, Head of the E-Learning and New Media unit

Susana Monsó got the
“Premio Extraordinario de Doctorado”

Photos: left © Karin Bayer
middle © Ernst Hammeschmid/Vetmeduni



Cooperation & International Engagement

The most important partners in 2017

Associated centres

Institute for Pathophysiology and Allergy Research at the Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology, and Immunology of the Medical University of Vienna

Erika Jensen-Jarolim's Unit of Comparative Medicine is an integrated part of this impressive immunology centre at the Medical University of Vienna. This makes an essential contribution to the bridge between the two universities. The

excellently equipped labs facilitate the establishment of the research focus "comparative allergology". Most partners in the FWF special research programme on allergies (spokesperson R. Valenta) and in the doctoral programme MCCA (Molecular, Cellular and Clinical Allergology; spokesperson W. Pickl) work at this centre or contribute in the Immunology Research Cluster (coordinated by W. Ellmeier).

Annual retreat of the Immunology Research Cluster





Clever Log Lab

The Clever Dog Lab was founded in 2007 and celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2017. On this occasion, there was a series of talks by renowned scientists (for example Prof. Tom Zentall, USA) and a special exhibition at the Open House of the University of Veterinary Medicine. But the year was also very successful from a scientific point of view. There were remarkable results in several projects with competitively obtained funding (ERC, FWF,

WWTF, RC, ÖAW). Among others, it could be shown that dogs react empathically, are able to adopt human perspectives and change their heart rate at the sight of emotional human faces. Furthermore, cognitive ageing can be slowed down through targeted training. Dogs can also conceive eye contact with humans as an aversion. Following the gaze is strongly influenced by human communication.

Mock scanner in the Clever Dog Lab

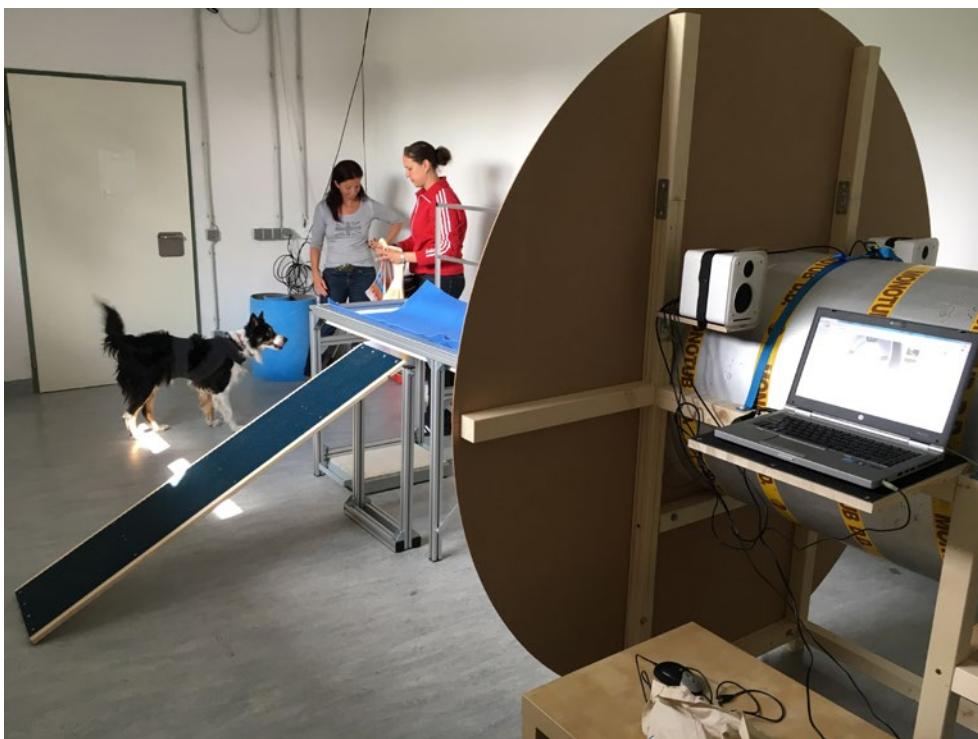


Photo: © IMI Training



Research Station Haidlhof

In its 7th year, remarkable research results were again achieved at the Research Station Haidlhof. Particularly the finding that keas have special play calls with effects similar to laughing, the comparison of curiosity behaviour in parrots and corvids, the ability to cooperate in keas and social learning in kune kune pigs attracted the attention of experts and the general public. There was fruitful collaboration not only with the University of Vienna but also with British and French universities. Extensive media coverage, many visitors and guided tours, as well as the new pavilion for research presentations regardless of the weather, which was built together with HTL Mödling, expressed our intensive public relations.

Students from HTL Mödling built the "green classroom" to share knowledge at Haidlhof



Wolf Science Center

The year 2017 brought significant change for the Wolf Science Center (www.wolfscience.at): It became a part of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. Our new organisation (wolf research group at the Messerli Research Institute combined with a limited company) provides the WSC with financial stability and administrative support. Besides this organisational development, there was also continued scientific progress. We could show that wolves, although they are as hostile to injustice as dogs (*Current Biology*), treat their conspecifics in a more tolerant and cooperative way than dogs (*PNAS, Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology*). Furthermore, we found that wolves are more explorative (*Frontiers in Psychology*) and have a better causal understanding than dogs (*Scientific Reports*). By applying these findings, we pointed to the different socio-ecologies of dogs and wolves and expanded the human-centred theories of domestication by providing an innovative perspective on cynological behaviour (*Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*).

Department of Philosophy of the University of Vienna

The Institute of Philosophy of the University of Vienna is highly visible on the international level. It relies on the many areas of competence of its members, who impart knowledge with a wide-range of courses and high standards of specialization. In 2017, Herwig Grimm got the *venia legendi* of ethics and human-animal interactions at the University of Vienna and was appointed honorary professor. Due to Herwig Grimm's and Martin Huth's teaching activities, there is intense exchange and regular cooperation in the area of teaching with the Department of Philosophy of the University of Vienna. Outside of teaching, team members are also involved in research, conferences and the graduate programme at the Department of Philosophy.



Photo: © roeberbayer

Cooperation with our partner universities

University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

- Animals for Therapy/Center of Science and Training
- Clinical Unit of Anaesthesiology and Perioperative Intensive-Care Medicine
- Clinical Unit of Diagnostic Imaging
- Equine University Clinic
- Institute of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare
- Institute of Laboratory Animal Science
- Institute of Medical Biochemistry
- Institute of Population Genetics
- Konrad Lorenz Institute of Ethology
- University Clinic for Ruminants
- University Clinic for Small Animals, Dermatology and Oncology
- University Clinic for Swine
- VetCore

University of Vienna

- Department of Behavioural Biology and Human-Animals Relationships Research Group
- Department of Cognitive Biology
- Department of Integrative Zoology
- Department of Philosophy
- Cognitive Science Platform
- Faculty of Psychology

Medical University of Vienna

- Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology
- Center for Biomedical Engineering and Physics
- Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Department of Dermatology
- Department of Psychiatry und Psychotherapy
- Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
- Department of Surgery
- Immunology Research Cluster
- Medical Imaging Cluster, Preclinical Imaging Cluster

Further national partners

- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Catholic-Theological Private University Linz
- Network Berufliche Assistenz, Vienna
- Technical University of Vienna
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
- Zoo Schönbrunn



TOGETHER
ONE STEP FURTHER

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Joint Symposium of 2 PhD Programs
September 25-26, 2017

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Medical University of Vienna
Spitalgasse 23, 1090 Vienna

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allergology

www.phd-mcca.at
www.meduniwien.ac.at/phd-lai

Further international partners

The Unit of Comparative Cognition continued the collaboration with all their partners in 2017: Belgium (Ghent), Germany (Berlin, Leipzig), France (Rennes, Strasbourg), French Guiana (Saut Pararé), United Kingdom (Bristol, Edinburgh, Exeter, Lincoln, Oxford), Indonesia (Cibinong, West Java), Italy (Milan, Padua, Parma, Rome, Rovereto), Japan (Tokyo), New Zealand (Christchurch, Auckland), Norway (Trondheim), Sweden (Lund), Hungary (Eötvös Loránd and Semmelweis in Budapest) and the USA (Duke, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Nebraska, Atlanta). A new partner was UCLA (USA), where Eva Ringler used magnetic resonance for frogs. The cooperation agreement with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences was renewed and proved very fruitful for field research into Goffin's cockatoos in Tanimbar.

Most partnerships of the Comparative Medicine unit result from networks in international societies: the World Allergy Organization (WAO), the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), as well as the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). New and gratifying is the partnership with the National Cancer Institute.

The Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies is in cooperation with scientists at university organisations in, among others, Germany (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, FU Berlin – Department of Veterinary Medicine) and Switzerland (University of Zurich), with the main research priorities being veterinary ethics and animal ethics. In 2017, in particular the cooperation with the Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine of the University of Zurich was intensified in a project on the ethical responsibility in animal testing (supported by the Messerli Foundation). Conferences were organised together with, for example, the University of Zurich (CRISPR), the Institute TTN of LMU Munich and the Ruhr University Bochum in the Protestant Academy of Tutzing ("Moral without guilt?"). Furthermore, there was a conference at the University of Vienna together with the University of Ljubljana and the University of Graz on "Nonreductionist Conceptions of Life".

The logo features a black background with white text. At the top, four fields are listed: NEUROBIOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY, INFLAMMATION, and VASCULAR BIOLOGY. Below this, the main title 'BRIDGING THE GAP' is displayed in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath the title, it says '10th International Symposium on Cell Communication in Health and Disease'. A yellow banner across the middle contains the text 'Neurobiology-Immunology-Inflammation-Vascular Biology'. At the bottom, the dates '18th - 19th April 2017' are shown, along with a small decorative graphic.

Cooperation with networks and societies

Members of the Comparative Cognition unit are connected with groups from European countries (Ethological Society, Canine Science Forum), the USA (Comparative Cognition Society) and New Zealand (Kea Conservation Trust). Ludwig Huber was involved in the foundation of the North American Canine Science Network in Tempe (Arizona).

For many years, the international orientation of the Unit of Comparative Medicine has been complemented by strong national allergy networks funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), such as the special research programme F4606, as well as the funded doctoral programmes MCCA (Molecular, Cellular and

Clinical Allergology; W1248) and CCHD (Cell Communication in Health and Disease; W1205). Ideas from the field of comparative allergology have there been represented since the foundation of the Messerli Research Institute.

The Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies collaborates with platforms and associations in the field of ethics and human-animal interaction, including the Research Initiative for Animal Theory (FITT), the Network Veterinary Ethics, the Colloquium of Bündnis Mensch und Tier, the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics, the European Academy of Arts and Sciences, the association Tierschutz macht Schule, the Interspecies Rights Initiative, the Forum Animals and History, as well as Minding Animals Germany and Minding Animals International.

Ludwig Huber (front centre) at the March of Science in Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA



Ludwig Huber with his host Anders Brodin at Lund University (Sweden)



Ludwig Huber at the IG Nobel Show in Lausanne



Tom Zentall (University of Kentucky, USA)
with the kune kune pigs

Guest researchers at the Messerli Research Institute

Guests invited by members of the Comparative Cognition unit were welcomed in the Clever Dog Lab, the Wolf Science Center, the Goffin's Lab and at Haidlhof. Among other countries, they came from Italy, England, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Croatia, Poland, Brazil and the USA.

The following guest researchers visited the Messerli Research Institute on the invitation of the Ethics and Human-Animal Studies unit:

Julia Gutjahr (sociology, University of Hamburg):
Empirical Veterinary Ethics

Marc Bubeck (sociology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich): Empirical Veterinary Ethics

Matthias Eggel (bioethics, University of Zurich):
Ethics in scientific animal testing



Photo: © Ariane Veit

Society & Public Relations

The Messerli Research Institute is committed to bringing knowledge gained from research to the public debate, in line with the principles defined in its mission statement. The institute maintains cooperation with partners from different fields. Thus, the institute contributes to the promotion of a scientifically sound and ethically acceptable treatment of animals in our society.

Media highlights

Research of the Comparative Cognition unit attracted a lot of media attention also in 2017. Among others, there were reports about how parrots and ravens explore something new, that elephants notice when they are in their way, dogs know what humans know, keas have special play calls, pigs learn from conspecifics, fire salamanders have a winter-hardy memory, poison frogs care for their brood “on command”, wolves understand cause and effect and are champions of team work, and Goffin’s cockatoos do not only use tools but even produce them.

Jane Goodall with Patrick van Veen (Head of JGI Global, left) and JGI honorary ambassador Ludwig Huber at the first JGI Global Conference in Vienna



Photo: © Doris Schreyvogel

An ORF film team at the kune kune pigs at Haidlhof



Photo: © Ludwig Huber

Shootings for the Discovery Channel in the Clever Dog Lab



Comparative Medicine: The press releases by Franziska Roth-Walter about Acrolein from passive smoke suppressing the immune system and, thus, inevitably giving rise to cancer, as well as by Isabell Pali about food allergies in humans and animals and the new guideline on edible insects touched on sensitive areas in society and are relevant in the Messerli context. "Gender and allergies" was an issue for the unit throughout the whole year and triggered a press release right on the International Women's Day.

Judith Benz-Schwarzburg was interviewed for the Ö1 radio programme "Kätzchen & Köter. Was wissen wir über die Beziehung mit unseren Haustieren?" (Kitty & mutt. What do we know about the relationship with our pets?). Other TV programmes featured Judith Benz-Schwarzburg ("Tiere als Geschenk"; animals as a present) and Christian Dürnberger ("Schweinehaltung – Tierwohl im Spannungsfeld zwischen Ethik und Ökonomie"; keeping pigs – animal welfare between ethics and economics). The newspapers Wiener Zeitung, Kurier and Standard, as well as the magazine "Mein Haustier" reported about the work of the unit.

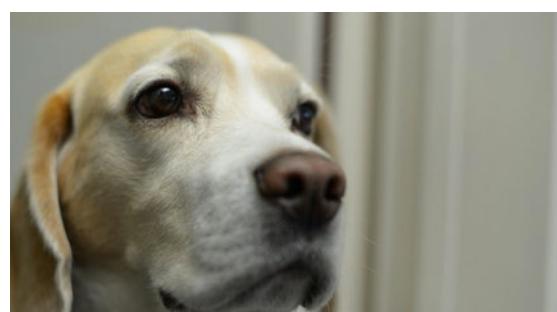


Interview with Isabell Pali on food allergies in the programme "Nur mit Tier" by Maggie Entenfellner in Guten Morgen Österreich, ORF2



Interview with Erika Jensen-Jarolim on the International Women's Day

Ö1 radio programme "Kätzchen & Köter.
Was wissen wir über die Beziehung mit unseren Haustieren?"



Das Verhältnis zum Tier.

Kätzchen & Köter. Was wissen wir über die Beziehung mit unseren Haustieren?
Gäste: Flavio Marchetti, Regisseur & Filmproduzent; Judith Benz-Schwarzburg, Philosophin an der Abteilung Ethik am Messerli Forschungsinstitut in Wien.
Moderation: Elisabeth Scharang.
Anrufe kostenlos aus ganz Österreich unter 0800 22 69 79

Seit Darwin steht die Frage im Raum, ob der



Events

2017

Members of the Messerli Research Institute were again involved in several national and international conferences in 2017. They acted as hosts, co-organisers, committee members etc. Thus, they contributed to the institute's visibility in Austria and abroad and promoted the network of researchers in the field of human-animal interaction.

Members of the Comparative Cognition unit were involved in the EAZA breeding programme, in the organisation of workshops on parrots (Vienna and Berlin), in scientific advisory boards (WIKO Berlin, CSF Budapest) and in the organisation of symposia at international conferences (Portugal and USA).

Comparative Medicine: As an editor-in-chief of the World Allergy Organization Journal, Erika Jensen-Jarolim chaired the Editorial Board Meeting in Helsinki, the EAACI AllergoOncology Task Force with a workshop in London and the EAACI workshop on adjuvants in allergen-immunotherapy in Vienna.

EAACI Task Force Meeting "Adjuvants in allegro-immunotherapy" in Vienna



Photo: © Stephan Schleising



Gary Steiner (Bucknell University) and Herwig Grimm at the conference "Moral ohne Schuld?" (moral without guilt?) in Tutzing



The Comparative Medicine unit presented 11 abstracts at this year's annual conference of the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology

Photo: © Institute for New Culture Technologies/I0



Susana Monsó presenting at the conference "Hypernormal Hybrids"

Infrastructure



In a field project to investigate the innovative spirit of Goffin's cockatoos, two researchers from the Comparative Cognition unit (M. O'Hara and B. Mioduszewska) established a research station on the Island Yamdena of the Indonesian Maluku Islands, together with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. The station was built with the consent and help of committed local farmers on their farmland near the village Lorulun. It consists of simple accommodation to house up to four scientists, a meeting room, an observation platform and an aviary for "capture-release" studies. The aviary is 13 metres long, 5 metres wide and 3.5 metres high and has a 50 m² group area with a contiguous 12.5 m² experimental compartment and a little hut, in which researchers can prepare food and experiments. This station will continue to help us deepen our knowledge about the cognition and behavioural ecology of Goffin's cockatoos.

Goffin's Lab in Tanimbar



2017



Social Events

2017



christmas party in the CleverDog Lab



Dog and wolf researchers at the
Canine Science Conference in Arizona (USA)



Cooperation of Austrian and Indonesian
research groups in Tanimbar



The team of the Comparative Cognition unit "lost" a member: Ina Herrmann left for North Carolina



Erika Jensen-Jarolim, Sherienne Afifi with her daughter and Gerlinde Hofstetter at the Open House 2017



Isabella Pali in the Science Café at the Open House 2017



A tradition before Christmas: punch and cookies in the CompMed Lab



Pizza after the cleaning day in the CompMed Lab



Herwig Grimm handing over the spokesperson's golden microphone to Erika Jensen-Jarolim



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