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EMBO Accolade for Alexander Stark

IMP Senior Scientist Alexander Stark is among the new members of the “European Molecular Biology Organization” (EMBO) in Heidelberg (Germany). He has been selected to join the distinguished circle of leading molecular biologists and will be part of the extensive EMBO network.

The election as new member of the European Molecular Biology Organization represents yet another recognition of Alexander Stark’s outstanding accomplishments as a leading researcher in the field of gene regulation. Earlier this year, he had been promoted to Senior Scientist at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP).

According to the online membership directory, Alex Stark joins 29 EMBO researchers who are currently affiliated with Austrian institutions, among them all Senior Scientists at the IMP – Meinrad Busslinger, Tim Clausen, Jan-Michael Peters and now Alex Stark. Adding Alex Stark to the list of EMBO members in Austria, 17 out of the 29 top-researchers in the life sciences conduct research at the Vienna Biocenter or have been doing so before retirement.

According to EMBO, the European Molecular Biology Organization “is an organization of more than 1,700 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.”

Election of the new EMBO members is a remarkably democratic process. Once a year, EMBO members are invited to nominate prospective future members. The members then decide which nominees are invited to join by voting online for them on an individual basis. After the EMBO Council meeting, the names of the newly elected EMBO members are published. This election procedure, carried out by highly acclaimed peers, explains the high degree of recognition that comes with being an EMBO member.

After concluding his diploma studies in biochemistry at the University of Tuebingen and after having completed his PhD studies at the EMBL and at the University of Cologne in 2004, Alexander Stark moved to the renowned Broad Institute (MIT and Harvard) and to the CSAIL (MIT). After having spent three years in the USA, he returned to Europe in 2008 and took up a Group Leader-position at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP) in Vienna. In early 2015, Alex was promoted to Senior Scientist and became part of the scientific lead team at the IMP.

Alex Stark’s scientific passion is to answer fundamental questions in the complex field of gene regulation. His work at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), located at the Vienna Biocenter (VBC), focuses on studying regulators of gene expression by combining systematic genome-wide experiments and computational analyses. The ultimate goal of his research is to “crack” the regulatory code according to which genes are switched on and off in different tissues and organs, and to understand how gene regulatory networks define cellular and developmental programmes.



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About the IMP

The Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP) in Vienna is a basic biomedical research institute largely sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. With over 200 scientists from 35 nations, the IMP is committed to scientific discovery of fundamental molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying complex biological phenomena. Research areas include cell and molecular biology, neurobiology, disease mechanisms and computational biology. The IMP is a founding member of the Vienna Biocenter, Austria's flagship location in the global arena of cutting-edge research in molecular biology.

Stark Group:

<http://www.imp.ac.at/research/research-groups/stark-group/>

IMP: www.imp.ac.at

EMBO: www.embo.org

Vienna Biocenter: www.viennabiocenter.org/

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