

German Genome Research: A Joint Venture for Health Research

"Because of the founding of NGFN, Germany has become an extremely interesting research site, where it is possible to successfully conduct disease-relevant genome research in a network with outstanding core research areas. The NGFN was an important reason for me to return to Germany from the US."

Dr. Wolfgang Rottbauer, Heidelberg



"With NGFN, Germany has initiated a unique research program linking genome research with clinically applied research. This is exemplary and has led to great international acclaim. We can thus compete internationally in the highly competitive field of genome research and are contributing to making Germany rank at the top in the biomedical field."

Prof. Dr. Annemarie Poustka, Heidelberg



"Genome research is an important contribution to economic development in Germany. About one thousand jobs receive government grants within the German genome network. They have already been complemented by about 500 jobs in spin-off companies from this research, for instance in spin-offs from my own department."

Prof. Dr. Hans Lehrach, Berlin



» Networking to Success

Scientists of all disciplines – such as biologists, physicians or computer scientists – in clinics, universities or in large research centers collaborate on the highest level. They all have the same goal: clarification of disease mechanisms and setting the course for therapies that can heal. The understanding of causal disease mechanisms will not only provide **new approaches to therapy for previously incurable diseases**, but also the development of personally tailored drugs with fewer side effects. Impelled by the **greatest challenge** that mankind has faced since the development of manned spaceflight, scientists have developed productive forms of collaboration that seek their equal worldwide 🌐

» NGFN Attracts Scientists from All Over the World

The attractive network structure of the National Genome Research Network (NGFN) has brought scientists from other European countries and the US to Germany. In the framework of research groups attached to individual NGFN elements, they **collaborate intensively** on current problems of genome research. Altogether, NGFN has such a strong network structure even internationally that in many fields **coordinated scientific work** in the largest dimensions has been possible 🌐

» Germany – a Location for Science and Research

We are at a crucial point in German genome research. With the **German Human Genome Project (DHGP)**, which was founded in 1995, Germany was able to assume a leading role in **international genome research** despite its late entry into the field. Here the preconditions for the NGFN were created. The NGFN builds on the results and structures that were accomplished in the DHGP and expands these with the focus on diseases. The **impulses** that emanate from this unique research network are remarkable. Funds for diverse **EU projects** could already be raised with research projects evolving from the NGFN. The NGFN serves as starting point in many thematic areas, expanding the network to the European level 🌐

» Live-cell Therapy for German Economy

With the establishment of the NGFN, the course has been set. Germany intends to actively participate in the further development of genome research. It is the declared strategy of German research policy for this first decade of the new millennium that German research institutes should obtain ten percent of the patents granted worldwide. Already now, the number of **newly created jobs** in German biotechnology companies is considerable and the sector is continuing to grow. The results will also have a positive effect on German **pharmaceutical research and production**. Alongside the expansion of existing companies' product spectrum, the increase in the number of new-founded companies will contribute to creating jobs 🌐

» From Research to Practice

After the scientists have begun to understand the effects and the interactions of the genes in an organism in a holistic way, the steps into medical practice have come tangibly close. In the future, with the knowledge gained through disease-oriented genome research, diseases may be prevented or at least diagnosed at an early stage, and the patient may be provided with **specifically tailored medicines**. For the complex task of an efficient transfer of research results into practice, experts from **government, science and business** are working together to develop common models. Such **technology transfer** models are pathbreaking in this exciting and promising process 🌐🌐🌐

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