



For **25** years making Life Science matter...  
...and Innovation happen!

- 130+ Institutionals members
- 10 Global pharma companies
- 12 Universities and research institutions
- €100M+ Public funding raised



# BioRN

## Life Science Cluster Rhein-Neckar

www.biorn.org



CELIS is funded by the European Union's  
COSME Programme (GA No.: 873857)

The content represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



# Life Science Cluster Rhine-Neckar

BioRN is the science and industry cluster of the Rhine-Main-Neckar region around Heidelberg, one of Germany's strongest biotech hubs. It is a non-profit network fostering health innovations and serving its members by creating a rich translational ecosystem as well as promoting, representing and connecting the regional innovation stakeholders.

**Heidelberg** is home to many renowned research institutes focused on genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics in the fields of cancer, cardiology, infectious disease and neuroscience.

In the surrounding region are further centers of academic excellence: the Universities of Frankfurt, Freiburg, Mainz and Tübingen, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and several Fraunhofer Institutes.

Heidelberg University is Germany's oldest university and three-time winner in the federal Excellence competition.

## in Heidelberg:



**11** Universities & Research Institutions

**5** Hospitals

**>800** Research Groups

**7** Nobel Prizes

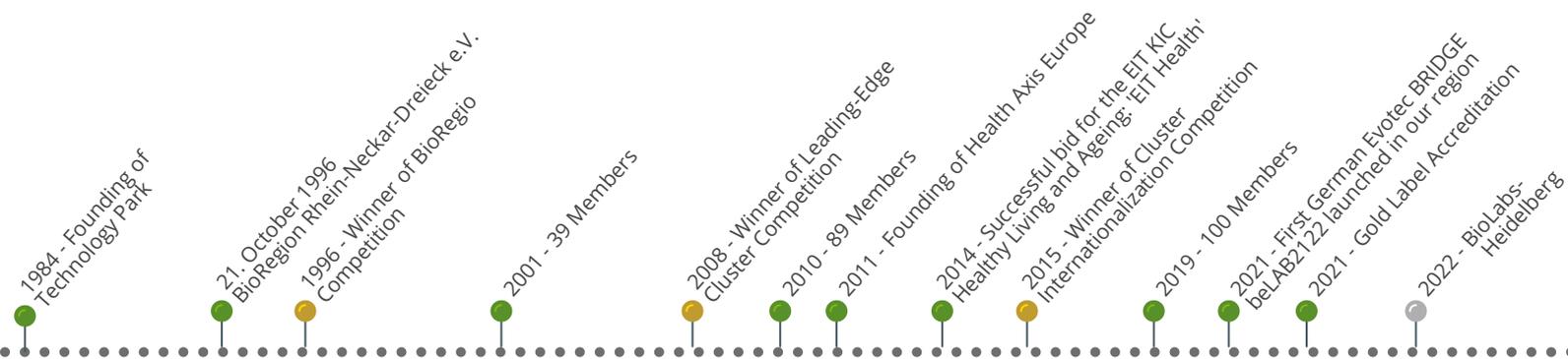
Germany's **oldest** University

**15000** Life Sciences Students  
1 out of 5 is international

**€1.1B+** budget

**7 p.a.** spin-off companies founded

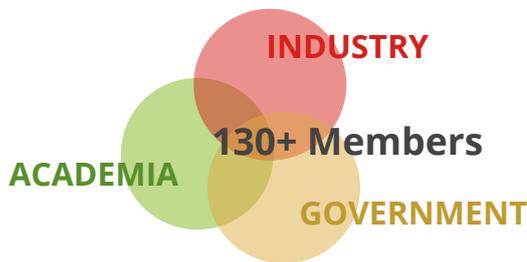
**600+** patent families filed



For 25 years making Life Science matter...  
...and Innovation happen!

BioRN is an innovation cluster based on the constant interaction between academia, industry and government for the production, transfer and application of knowledge in the Life Sciences. This approach refers to a *spiral* model of innovation, called triple-helix model.

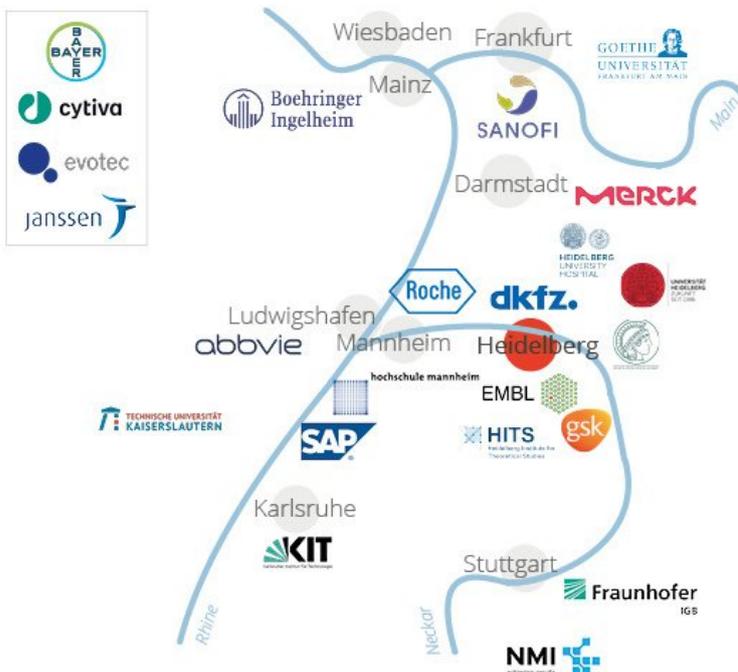
BioRN counts more than *130 members*. It includes top universities, research institutions and Technology Parks. Ten global pharmaceutical companies have R&D sites or are active in the BioRN network. The ecosystem is completed by a large range of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as local government organizations and interest groups.



BioRN is the unique combination of all relevant innovation stakeholders in the Life Sciences around Heidelberg at the border between Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, and connected by the rivers Rhein, Main and Neckar.

## Members Overview

- 40% biotechnology companies either developing therapeutics, diagnostics or providing R&D services
- 25% University and Research Institutions or public and non-profit organisations
- 20% professional service and consulting companies spanning from legal, patents and IP to marketing, human resources and business development
- 10% Suppliers for consumables, reagents, software and packaging
- 5% are global pharmaceutical companies



Being part of the network means investing into the development of a world-leading life science cluster, driving a rich translational ecosystem and creating innovation made in Germany



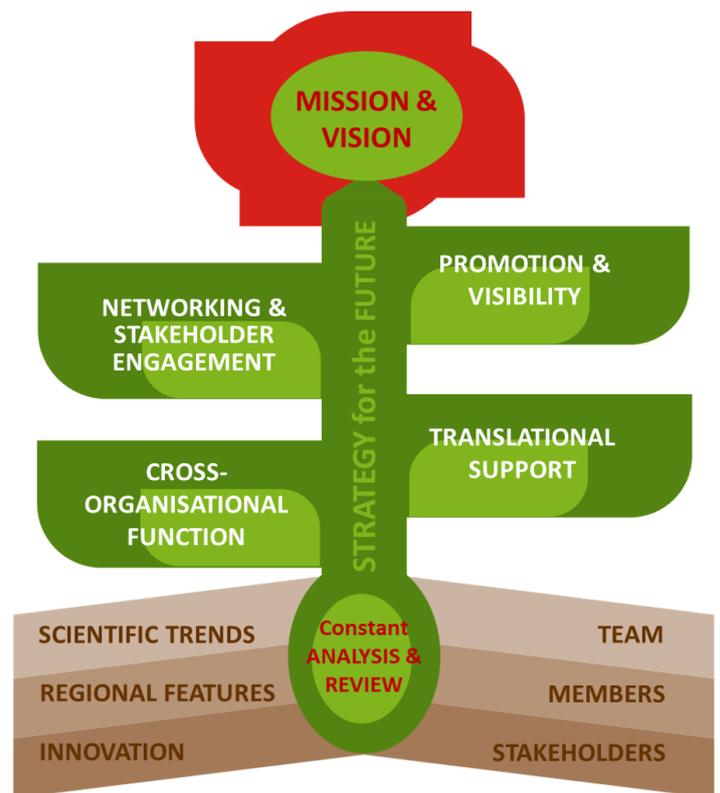
# Strategy & Mission



Recent advances in biotechnology and medical biology provide many novel, promising options for treating diseases. While much of the scientific progress emerges from academic research, large biotech and pharma companies have the fundamental expertise and funding options necessary for the actual transfer of scientific results to application. As drug development productivity in the pharmaceutical industry is continuously decreasing and healthcare systems are challenged by rising costs, bringing together academia and industry to address their respective challenges is an excellent opportunity to solve issues and move forward.

The Rhine-Main-Neckar region around Heidelberg is very well suited to foster such connections as it is home to both academic excellence and strong industrial players in very close geographic proximity. As such the region is an outstanding example of a biomedical cluster, and - because of the rich ecosystem covering the entire value creation chain and a dedicated cluster management - has seen a constant rise since the foundation of the BioRN Network more than 25 years ago.

With the vision to make life science matter and innovation happen, the cluster management established a clear strategy to become the leading European life science cluster, attracting global investment and talent. Through analysis and surveys of the ecosystem, and with input from all stakeholders this strategy is regularly updated and activities within the following four fields of action are conceived and implemented: Networking & Stakeholder Engagement; Promotion & Visibility; Cross-organizational Functions; Translational Support.



Our mission is to develop the region into a *world-leading* life science cluster attracting international investments and top global talent.



For 25 years making Life Science matter...  
...and Innovation happen!

## NETWORKING & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

*We bridge members regionally and towards other innovative ecosystems worldwide. Nurturing and extending connections among regional innovation stakeholders is at the core of BioRN's activities.*

- ✓ Networking events: the BioRN Lounge is a monthly networking event centred around current scientific trends; the BioRN Espresso is the peer-to-peer event that brings a new flavour to the traditional "stammtisch". In addition regular thematic workshops are held by members and for members. >>
- ✓ Since 2009, each year the BioRN Annual Conference has been a valuable source of top information, lively discussions and networking opportunities with international experts from different fields of the life sciences. >>
- ✓ Access to an international network for joint EU application, international collaborations and best practice exchange is guaranteed through the Health Axis Europe >>
- ✓ Innovation stakeholders are represented in the BioRN boards >>

## PROMOTION & VISIBILITY

*We stand for the promotion and visibility of the Life Science Region at international and national level*

- ✓ Public relations – Promotion and distribution of news, activities and success stories from the region and its stakeholders
- ✓ Proactive dialog with public (health) authorities to influence policies in the biotechnology and healthcare field.
- ✓ Dedicated dialog with public (health) authorities to attract funding and establish new infrastructures for the local ecosystem
- ✓ Showcasing and representing the local ecosystem and stakeholders at national and international events and professional meetings
- ✓ Attract high profile (international) events in the region (e.g. Deutsche Biotechnologietage and BIO-Europe)



## CROSS-ORGANISATIONAL FUNCTION

*We support inter-institutional initiatives to facilitate applied biosciences in the region.*

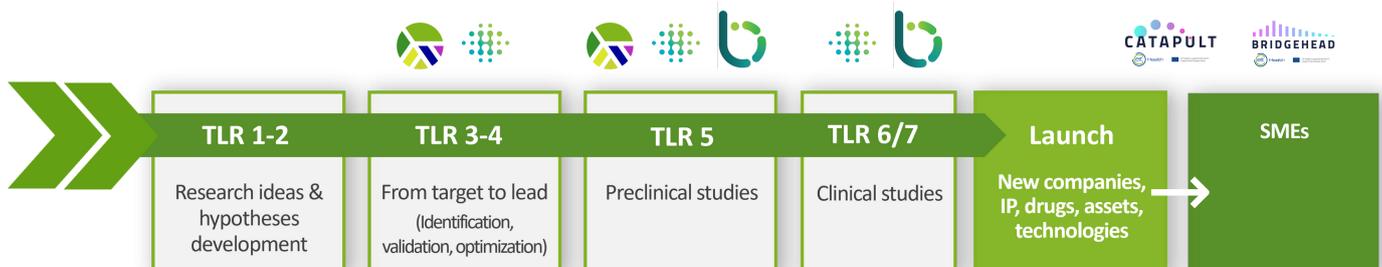
- ✓ Coordination of inter-institutional funding applications and events.
- ✓ Central point of contact for external enquiries regarding Life Science topics
- ✓ Support in identification of potential partners from SMEs, industry and academia and subsequent project management
- ✓ Different tools to efficiently match academic and early industry projects with partners from international Life Science corporates (Translation Support).

## TRANSLATIONAL SUPPORT

*We provide translation support, especially by leveraging the unique combination of global pharma and leading academic institutions in the region*

We initiate and manage different programmes to support the development of (academic) research ideas through all necessary development stages, for therapeutics e.g. pre-clinical and clinical development, until commercialisation.

Our programs are selected based on specific regional needs.



*The translation programmes managed by BioRN can support reaserach ideas and technologies development at different stages. BioRN makes sure that those projects are reflecting specific regional needs and are complementary to further existing instruments in the region.*



# Core Activities



beLAB2122 is a new public-private partnership between the leading academic institutions of the Rhine-Main-Neckar region, Evotec and Bristol Myers Squibb to identify, fund and execute novel disease modifying therapeutic projects with the goal to develop these to new spinout companies.

<https://belab2122.org/>



BioRN is initiator, project manager and Founding Partner of Biolabs Heidelberg. As part of the global BioLabs membership-based network of co-working space for startups, BioLabs will offer premium on demand wet laboratories and office spaces to early-stage life-science startups with direct access to a network of industry partners and investors. The staged opening is planned from December 2021 to early 2022.

<https://www.biolabs.io/>



## BioRN Scout

Custom-fit search and care-free match to enable innovation. The BioRN Scout partnering programme joins major regional and European networks to effectively match health care innovation seekers with innovators.

<https://www.biorn.org/scouting>



A training and competition programme to award the best business concepts from medtech, biotech, and digital health in EU

<https://eithealth.eu/catapult/>



Enabling mature foreign start-ups to expand their business into our regional / national market

<https://eithealth.eu/bridgehead/>



For 25 years making Life Science matter...  
...and Innovation happen!

**Apogenix** A German Cancer Centre (DKFZ) spin-off company founded 2005, focus on immuno-oncology therapeutics. Licensing agreement with AbbVie in 2014.

**Bayer HealthCare and DKFZ Strategic alliance against Cancer.** This collaboration aims at finding and exploiting molecules, mechanisms and models for anticancer therapies. The collaboration has invested more than 10 million Euros for oncology research.

**BioMed X Institute** academia/ industry collaboration model. Scientists work jointly on pre-clinical research projects sponsored by corporate partner. Total project volume € 31 million. Sponsors include Merck, AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim and Roche.

**Cellzome** An EMBL spin-off company focused on chemoproteomics; acquired by GSK in 2012; Expansion of site on EMBL Campus.

**EMBL Open Targets** shared initiative by EMBL-EBI, GSK, Sanofi, BMS, Takeda and Wellcome Sanger Institute to generate evidence on the validity of therapeutic targets based on genome-scale experiments and analysis.

**InoCard** Cardiology gene therapy technology developed by Prof. Most and Prof. Catus (University Hospital Heidelberg). Acquired by UniQure in 2014, where founders became directors of UniQure Germany.

**MYR Pharmaceutical** HEPCLUDEX, the first approved drug for the treatment of chronic hepatitis D, is based on Prof. Stephan Urban's research at the University Hospital Heidelberg. The drug was launched successfully in September 2020 by MYR, that was acquired in 2021 by Gilead for 1.45 billion euros.

**MTM** Early diagnosis of cervical cancer developed by Prof. von Knebel Doeberitz (University Hospital Heidelberg). Sold to Roche.

**Phenex Pharmaceuticals** is a privately owned drug R&D company, founded in 2002, focusing on small-molecule drug discovery in liver diseases and in cancer. One discovery programme was acquired for \$ 470 million from Gilead.



# BioRN



**Ann-Kristin Mueller**  
BioLabs Heidelberg



**Britt Lemke**  
Regional Ecosystem



**Friedemann Loos**  
Innovation



**Julia Schaft**  
Managing Director



**Annalisa Zuccotti**  
Comm & Events



**Sibylle Gelenberg**  
Members



**Ursula Volk**  
Accounting



**Arantxa Encinas-López**  
Startups



## Contact

BioRN Cluster Management GmbH  
Im Neuenheimer Feld 582  
69120 Heidelberg, Germany

[www.biorn.org](http://www.biorn.org)  
[info@biorn.org](mailto:info@biorn.org)

T: +49 6221 4305 111

For **25** years making Life Science matter...  
...and Innovation happen!

