

■ Press Release

No. e132, 17 November 2020

Physicist Dr. Jan Huisken nominated for top level research at the Cluster of Excellence MBExC



Göttingen University receives another Alexander von Humboldt Professorship.

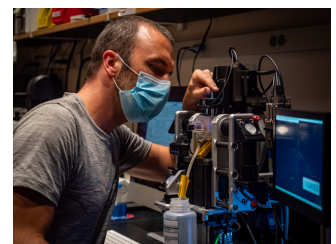
(mbexc/umg) The University of Göttingen was once again successful in the competition for the most highly endowed German research award: Physicist Dr. Jan Huisken, nominated by the University of Göttingen, has been awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. The professorship, financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is endowed with approximately five million euros over five years. This enables the University to offer Huisken an attractive career opportunity.



Nominated for an Alexander von Humboldt professorship: Dr. Jan Huisken.
Photo: private

Huisken will in future contribute to research at the Cluster of Excellence Multiscale Bioimaging: From Molecular Machines to Networks of Excitable Cells (MBExC) in Göttingen. The physicist is a pioneer of so-called “smart and gentle” microscopy, considered as a co-founder of modern light-sheet microscopy, and a world leader in the field of multiscale imaging. For his work, he has already been awarded the Gold Medal for Light Microscopy 2017 by the Royal Microscopical Society and the Lennart Nilsson Prize 2020 from the Karolinska Institutet. In recent years, Huisken has contributed significantly to the development of quantitative imaging approaches in modern biology. His light sheet microscopy technique is widely used worldwide.

"We are extremely pleased that the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has awarded Jan Huisken for a Humboldt Professorship," says University President Prof. Dr. Reinhard Jahn. "As an internationally renowned expert in the fields of physics and multiscale biology, he is an enrichment for the University, the entire Göttingen Campus, and for the Cluster of Excellence and its research strength."



Michael Weber (Huisken Lab) using a Flamingo T-SPIM microscope at the Zon Lab, Harvard University / Boston Children's Hospital.
Photo: Michael Weber (Huisken Lab)

Huisken, who was born in Göttingen, will strengthen the research program of the Cluster of Excellence MBExC, which uses a unique interdisciplinary approach to study the disease-relevant functional units of electrically active heart and nerve cells, from the molecular to the organ level. "With his innovative approaches in the field of imaging, Jan Huisken is excellently suited to extend the analyses beyond the nano- and microscale, thus closing the gaps between the different scales, at the cellular and cell network level in the heart and brain", explains MBExC spokesperson Prof. Dr. Tobias Moser, who prepared Huisken's nomination together with MBExC researchers.

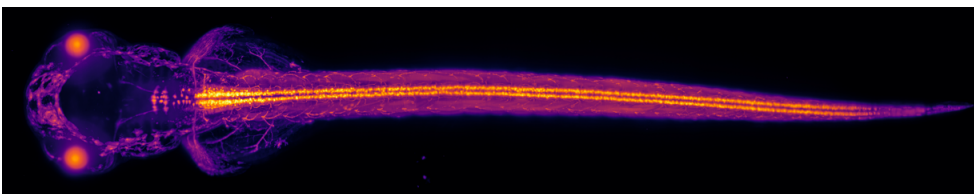
"His engagement will be significant for the progress of the Cluster of Excellence, and an important prerequisite for positioning Göttingen as a science location for further

■ Press Release

competition within the framework of the Excellence Strategy," says Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Brück, Chairman of the Executive Board and Dean of the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG).

Huisken's professorship for Multiscale Biology will be attached to the Faculty of Biology and Psychology, which, together with the UMG, is a mainstay of activities in the neurosciences and molecular biosciences on the Göttingen Campus. "By introducing concepts and methods from physics, mathematics and artificial intelligence, Jan Huisken will also strengthen the link to the Faculty of Physics," says Prof. Dr. Rolf Daniel, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology. "In addition, his international experience and multidisciplinary scientific excellence will enhance teaching and research training on the Göttingen Campus."

Jan Huisken, born in 1974, studied physics at the Universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg. During his doctorate in Heidelberg, which he completed at the University of Freiburg in 2004, he explored optical traps and high-resolution fluorescence microscopy. Mainly focusing on multidimensional light sheet microscopy and its application in life sciences, he laid the foundation for multiscale 3D microscopy for imaging organs in living animals. As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California in San Francisco, he concentrated on cardiovascular morphogenesis and function in zebrafish, and made his breakthrough as an international microscope developer with a microscope that he built himself. From 2010 to 2016, Huisken was an independent group leader at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden. Since 2016, he has been group leader and director of the Department of Medical Engineering at the renowned Morgridge Institute for Research at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, USA.



Peripheral nervous system of zebrafish larvae imaged with Huisken's Flamingo microscope, samples by Julie Jurgens, Elizabeth Engle Lab, Boston Children's Hospital.

Photo: Michael Weber (Huisken Lab)

■ Press Release

The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship is intended to enable German universities to attract top-level researchers to Germany and offer them long-term prospects for working in Germany. As a rule, the sponsorship amount is five million EUR for researchers working in an experimental capacity and three and a half million EUR for researchers working in theory. The professorship is awarded up to ten times a year.

More information:

about Jan Huisken:

<https://morgridge.org/research/medical-engineering/huisken-lab/>

about the MBExC: <https://mbexc.de>

about the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship: <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/explore/newsroom/dossier-alexander-von-humboldt-professorship>

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Tobias Moser

University Medical Center Göttingen

Cluster of Excellence Multiscale Bioimaging (MBExC)

Telephone: +49 (0)551 39-63071

E-mail: tmoser@gwdg.de

Website: <https://mbexc.de/mission/management/#spokerperson>

Prof. Dr. Rolf Daniel

Georg-August-University Göttingen

Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology

Telephone: +49 (0)551) 39-33827

E-mail: rdaniel@gwdg.de

Website: <http://appmibio.uni-goettingen.de/index.php?sec=rd>