

Q & A about IMBA

Who is IMBA?

IMBA is a fundamental research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences addressing questions in modern life sciences and biomedicine.

What do scientists at IMBA do?

IMBA scientists seek to solve functional genetic questions and investigate molecular processes and their involvement in the emergence of diseases. Model organisms and cutting-edge technologies, like deep sequencing, functional screening, cellular RNAi, as well as stem cell and imaging techniques are used to examine the role of genes in physiology and pathogenesis.

In which fields do the scientists at IMBA operate?

IMBA researchers work in a number of areas including Disease Modelling & Mouse Genetics and Cell & Stem Cell Biology as well as RNA Biology & Epigenetics. These key life science areas of the 21st Century are developing rapidly and have the potential to raise and answer questions relevant for the medicine of the future.

What is the aim of IMBA?

IMBA carries out primary research and aims to further increase its international reputation as a leading Centre of Excellence for molecular biology research in central Europe.

A major issue for the scientists at IMBA is understanding the elementary mechanisms of diseases in order to determine the basis for treatment and prevention of complex diseases such as cancer, osteoporosis, cardiovascular diseases or acute lung injury.

Which strategy does IMBA apply to achieve its goals?

IMBA provides its employees with optimal working conditions and scientific support and aims to attract the most talented academic staff and students. Through a precise

review process an independent Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) consisting of internationally recognized scientists assures the highest possible research standards. Cooperation with leading academic and industrial partners contributes to the transfer of the most promising results to areas of applied research.

What is special about IMBA?

IMBA cares about its staff's quality of life and therefore offers various social activities which assist in establishing contact and friendships among colleagues. Rather small research groups assure personal and intense supervision by the team leader and an intimate and stimulating environment. A private kindergarten offers affectionate care and hence supports young parents in pursuing their scientific career.

What does IMBA's structure look like?

Research at IMBA is organized into three major research groups, each headed by a Senior Scientist, and five smaller research groups run by Group Leaders. There are a number of specialized scientific and administrative service departments supporting the research activities.

Which career possibilities does IMBA offer?

IMBA enables students and scientists at all stages of their career to work in a dynamic scientific environment. Special programs, such as the Summer School or the International PhD Programme, support young scientists during the first steps of their career.

How many people work at IMBA?

About 170 people from over twenty different countries work at IMBA. More than eighty percent of the employees work in the scientific field.

When was IMBA founded?

IMBA was founded in 1999 as a joint initiative of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and the international Boehringer Ingelheim Group. It started operative

activities in 2003 and has rapidly become a flagship institute of the ÖAW. Despite its youth, IMBA is now one of Central Europe's leading research institutes in modern molecular life sciences.

Who is the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)?

The Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) is the leading organization promoting non-university academic research in Austria. The Academy supports and conducts open source fundamental research in the sciences and the humanities.

How is IMBA funded?

IMBA is financed by the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna and has been able to raise a significant proportion of third-party funds from national and European research sponsors. In addition, IMBA has initiated activities to attract private sponsors; funds now also come from specific project sponsorships and cooperation with industry.

Who are the partners of IMBA?

IMBA runs a common scientific and administrative infrastructure together with the IMP (Research Institute of Molecular Pathology). The "International PhD Programme in Molecular Life Sciences" for young upcoming scientists is organized in cooperation with the IMP, the MFPL (Max F. Perutz Laboratories) and the GMI (Gregore Mendel Institute). The hands-on laboratory "Vienna Open Lab" is a joint initiative of IMBA and Dialog Gentechnik.

Where is IMBA located?

IMBA is located at the Campus Vienna Biocenter (VBC), a cluster of research institutes, universities and biotech companies. The Campus Vienna Biocenter is located in Vienna and provides a dynamic and enriching environment which will grow substantially in the years to come. For example, a Campus Support Facility will come on stream in the next few years and will offer further scientific services, conveniently centralized for all members of the campus.