



Netzwerk
AlternsfoRschung
Network Aging Research



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
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SEIT 1386

Position of Research Leader for the Formation of Junior Research Groups

The **Network Aging Research (NAR)** at Heidelberg University is a highly selective and competitive initiative that stimulates and coordinates cutting-edge aging research at the university and in collaboration with local and international research institutions. The NAR is looking for outstanding candidates to fill the position of a Research Leader (“Nachwuchsgruppenleiter”) who has the capacity to build in an expeditious and successful way a Junior Research Group (JRG). This JRG will focus on the overarching theme of **“Biological and Behavioral Regulation of Aging.”**

Our primary goal with the JRG is to innovatively extend lines of research that combine themes and methods from the areas of physical activity, biological gerontology, epidemiology, and psychosocial aging research. The overarching framework is provided by the life-span developmental perspective, with a strong emphasis on principles and methods of basic science, but also a keen interest in the applied and intervention-related implications of the relevant research. The NAR has adopted a hybrid work and leadership philosophy, which combines a bottom-up with a top-down approach. In the bottom-up approach we seek the input and ideas from applicants, and we integrate these ideas as part of a dynamic process to form the respective research groups with feedback from the senior leadership within the NAR. Given that the NAR is in its essence a network-building and research-facilitating entity, the major objective is to maximize synergies and collaborative efforts. This is also indicated by the fact that the members of the JRGs will have dual affiliations both with the NAR and established research units (i.e., home departments) at Heidelberg University or its local partner institutions, such as the German Cancer Research Center. We plan to start with one Research Group in the Fall of 2015.

The future Research Leader is expected:

- to develop a multi-faceted research program on physical, psychosocial, and physiological regulation in adult populations;
- to actively seek and secure external funds for research projects;
- to utilize existing data sets for analyses and the generation of publications while generating new data;
- to prepare manuscripts for international peer-reviewed journals; and
- to create long-term research collaborations with other departments at Heidelberg University as well as research units external to the university.

Heidelberg offers a highly stimulating environment in aging research, involving numerous disciplines ranging from biological gerontology to epidemiology, to psychology and the humanities of aging. The position of Research Leader comes with a long-term contract at the level of T V L E14 with the option of an extension. The extension will be contingent on a successful midpoint evaluation by an international advisory board. In addition, the NAR is able to offer one to two funded doctoral students as research assistants per research unit. The position will also provide coverage for travel to conferences, office supplies, and research equipment. The NAR will establish an international advisory board to guide and support the Junior Research Group.



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Successful candidates must hold a doctorate (PhD, MD, or equivalent) and have a strong background (i.e., extensive experience in empirical research, publications in top peer-reviewed journals, advanced quantitative/statistical skills, experience with international collaborations) in the health sciences, in psychosocial aging research, or in epidemiology. Applicants are also expected to possess great affinity for interdisciplinary aging research and, in the ideal case, should already have demonstrated experience in this regard.

Applications should include an up-to-date CV and a 3-page proposal describing how the candidate would envision building the JRG. This proposal should include information about the thematic focus of the JRG as well as the midrange and long-term objectives of the research group. Furthermore, the candidate should also include considerations on how to interface the new research group with already established research units. For further information see www.nar.uni-heidelberg.de.

The NAR is an equal employment opportunity workplace, which strongly supports the scientific career of women. Qualified women are therefore especially encouraged to apply. Disabled applicants with equal qualifications and competence will be given preference.

Applications (in one pdf) should be submitted to Dr. Birgit Teichmann at teichmann@nar.uni-heidelberg.de by April 30, 2015.