

General information about the RTG-NCA | RTG 1960

Spokesperson: **Prof. Dr. Ansgar Büschges**

Deputy spokespersons: **Prof. Dr. Sigrun Korsching** and **Dr. Tatiana Korotkova**

Website: rtg-nca.uni-koeln.de

Faculty:

[Ansgar Büschges](#) (chair)

[Sigrun Korsching](#) (vice chair)

[Tatiana Korotkova](#) (vice chair)

[Jens Brüning](#)

[Silvia Daun](#)

[Alexander Drzezga](#)

[Gereon Fink](#)

[Matthias Hammerschmidt](#)

[Kei Ito](#)

[Peter Kloppenburg](#)

[Natalia Kononenko](#)

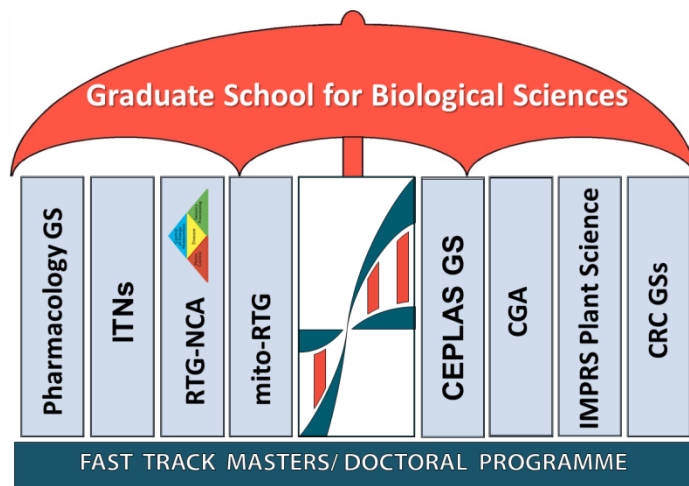
[Martin Nawrot](#)

[Elena Rugarli](#)

[Carmen Wellmann](#)

[Brunhilde Wirth](#)

Graduate School for Biological Sciences (GSfBS)



All doctoral candidates (DCs) of the RTG-NCA need to enrol in the **GSfBS** (Graduate School for Biological Sciences)
[LINK](#)

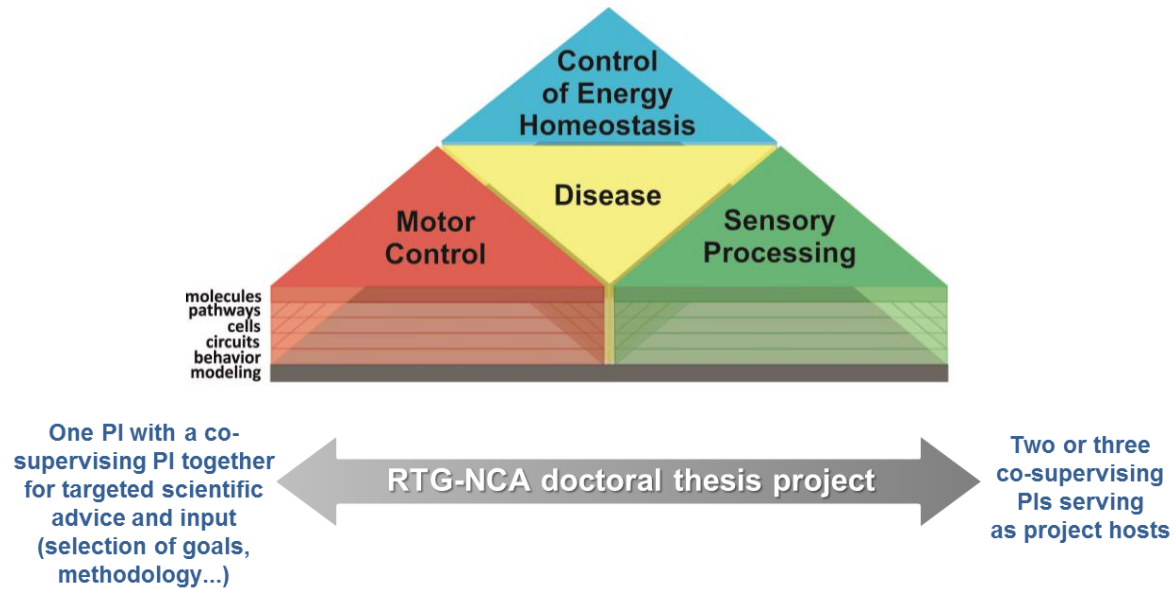
Preparatory phase at RTG-NCA

(if admission occurs through a recruitment event)

time	1 week	1 week	1. Rotation 2 weeks	2. Rotation 2 weeks	3. Rotation 2 weeks	1 week
topic	Welcome to Cologne	Intensive training module	Practical work in selected laboratories	Practical work in selected laboratories	Practical work in selected laboratories	Choose lab for PhD project
duty	Administrative issues	Lectures, presentations	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	

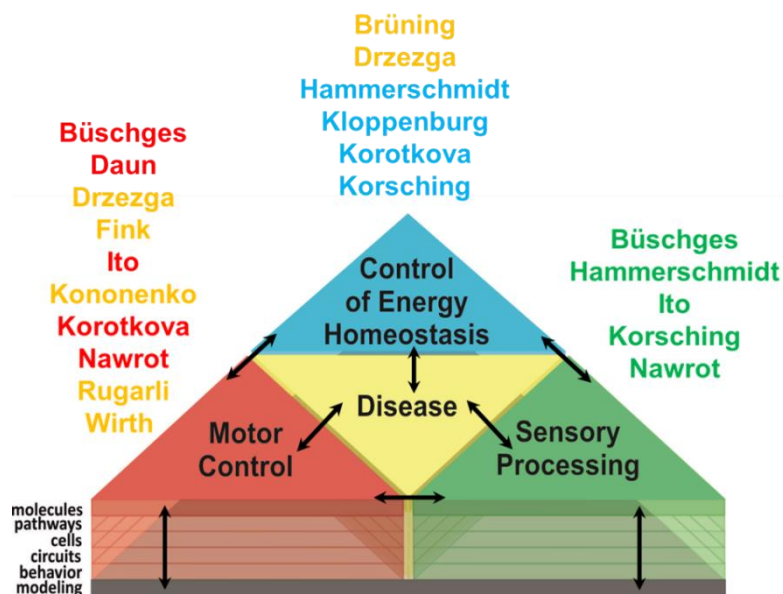
Depending on the recruitment modality, the sequence of the above elements of the “intensive week” might be shifted.

Doctoral supervision concept at RTG-NCA



Understanding of the **nervous system** requires an **interdisciplinary approach** combining findings from **different levels of analysis**. The aim of the RTG-NCA is to provide its DCs with **across level and across systems methodological and conceptual training**. Therefore in the RTG-NCA doctoral research supervision is carried out by **pairs of cooperating supervisors**, who are selected based on two rationales: (1) **both supervisors jointly represent the topic of the collaborative research project**; (2) **the second supervisor broadens the setting of the project** towards the goal of the RTG by her/his specific area of research expertise and/or by bringing **methodological expertise** into the project.

Areas of research



Structured doctorate training at the RTG-NCA

Prerequisites: Choose your TAC
Register at the GSfBS
Supervision agreement

time	Within 6 months	12 - 18 months	24 - 30 months	36 - 40 months
duty	TAC meeting Oral presentation Written project proposal	TAC meeting Oral report Written 1 st year report	TAC meeting Oral report Written 2 nd year report	TAC meeting Oral report

Submit all signed forms plus a PDF of your report to the RTG-NCA coordinator

At regular intervals during the doctoral training period (and whenever necessary) each DC meets her/his **Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC)** consisting of the **two supervisors of the collaborative research project**.

The **3rd member of the TAC, the tutor**, is a group leader or experienced Postdoc from a research group independent of the two supervisors.

The two supervisors and the DC will sign **statements of agreement that define their duties and rights**. A copy will be archived by the RTG-NCA coordinator.

As stipulated in the rules of the GSfBS it is compulsory that at the end of each thesis committee meeting the doctoral candidate will meet with the 2nd TAC member and the tutor alone (in the absence of the main supervisor) for a minimum of ten minutes.

PLEASE NOTE:

Roughly two months before the due date of an upcoming TAC meeting, the coordinator will send a reminder to the DC to schedule the next meeting. The supervisor needs to approve proposals and reports before they are forwarded to other TAC members.

A TAC meeting form needs to be filled in at all meetings. A scan of the signed document and a PDF version of the respective report have to be sent to the RTG-NCA coordinator.

Study Program of the RTG-NCA

List of courses specific to the RTG-NCA (duration of event) – **Courses obligatory for all DCs**

Element	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
lab meetings (within your lab)	weekly (1.5h)	weekly (1.5h)	weekly (1.5h)
lecture series	En block; next series will be in Jan-Mar 2019		
Journal Club (JC) Methods insight	monthly (1.5h)	monthly (1.5h)	monthly (1.5h)
progress reports	twice (2h)	once (2h)	twice (2h)
guest lectures (seminars)	four talks a year (1.5h)	four talks a year (1.5h)	four talks a year (1.5h)
GSfBS symposium	Every other year (2 days)		
annual retreat	once (2 days)	once (2 days)	once (2 days)
additional skills	variable / on demand	variable / on demand	variable / on demand

Additional offers for career development and professional skills acquisition

Professional skills courses provided by the GSfBS:

[LINK](#)

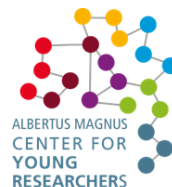


Course	Duration	preferred timing
Good Scientific Conduct (mandatory)	Several lectures scheduled	at the beginning of the thesis
Bioinformatics	5 days	any time
Career orientation	1 day	at the beginning of the thesis
Career mentoring and management	3,5 days	3 rd year
Data visualization	2 days	any time
Designing and presenting scientific posters	2 days	1 st or early 2 nd year
Getting funded	3,5 days	3 rd year
Patenting	weekly appointments for 6 weeks	any time
Presenting professionally	2 days	1 st or early 2 nd year
Scientific Writing	2,5 days	late 2 nd year
Effective communication	2 days	any time
Skills for project managers	2,5 days	Later stage of doctorate
Conflict Management	3 days	any time

Further courses offered by the

Albertus Magnus Nachwuchszentrum (AMNZ) | Albertus Magnus Center for Young Researchers (AMCYR) can be found here: [LINK](#).

Academic Staff Development (PE WISS) [LINK](#)



International office [LINK](#)

FCC (Female Career Center) Courses, Workshops, Mentoring programmes [LINK](#)

Mentoring Programmes, esp. for young female researchers at all career stages

(The mentoring programs combine elements of concepts in personnel development that were already established: One-to-one mentoring, Workshops and Networking) [LINK](#)

Dual Career & Family Support (CFS) providing information, counselling and services regarding the compatibility of family and career [LINK](#)

For further information or in case of need
feel invited to contact the scientific coordinator.

Scientific coordinator RTG-NCA
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