Academic Collaborations

International collaborations
In addition to individual project collaborations, the DZNE is involved in numerous international collaborative initiatives:

- **Centers of Excellence in Neurodegeneration initiative (CoEN):** Th and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada, as a joint funding program to catalyze translational research in the field. The consortium was soon expanded and currently has nine member countries (Germany, UK, Canada, Italy, Spain, etc).

- **Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease (JPND):** An EU member-state led initiative to tackle the "grand challenge" of neurodegenerative disease.

- **Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN):** Germany has recently joined this network of researchers studying Alzheimer’s disease that is caused by a gene mutation. Understanding this form of Alzheimer's disease may provide clues to decoding other dementias and developing treatments.

- **Helmholtz-Alberta Initiative:** This long-term and highly successful partnership was created to find solutions to pressing issues in the area of energy and health, with an initial focus on infectious and neurodegenerative disease research. Currently, the DZNE is collaborating with scientists at the University of Alberta.

- **Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease (GIND):** The DZNE and Gladstone work together to address critical unresolved issues in areas of common interest.

National collaborations
Based on its organizational structure, the DZNE also benefits from ample opportunities to network with the expertise and resources of its affiliated local universities. Indeed, such collaboration is crucial for clinical research work, since the DZNE does not provide direct patient care services.

Close collaboration with local partners is exhibited in the participation of the DZNE in four Excellence Clusters which were recently selected for funding by the Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, Germany’s largest funding organization):

- **ImmunoSensation (Immune Sensory System; new excellence cluster):** ImmunoSensation aims to understand the immune system's role in health and disease.
- **SyNergy (Munich Cluster for Systems Neurology; new excellence cluster):** SyNergy focuses on the study of neurodegenerative diseases.
- **CECAD (Cellular Stress responses in ageing-associated diseases):** CECAD investigates the cellular stress responses in aging-related diseases.
The DZNE extended its close collaboration with university clinics by studying "multiple sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia" together with the Universities of Düsseldorf and Heidelberg. Moreover, the DZNE has created links with individual Helmholtz centers, including the Helmholtz Center for Infection Research (HZI). In addition, the DZNE is partners of the...