The general concept of the DZNE Munich

The DZNE Munich was found in September 2009 with the idea to strengthen and increase the existing research efforts of both Universities (Ludwig-Maximilians- Universität Munich, LMU and Technical University Munich, TUM) in the fields of neurobiology and neurodegeneration. Prof. Haass was assigned as the speaker of the DZNE Munich. To provide optimal research conditions the state of Bavaria decided to set up a new research building on the high-tech campus of the LMU (Fig. 1). This new research building will not only host all Munich-based DZNE groups but will be complemented by the entire Department of Biochemistry headed by Prof. Haass. Moreover, the LMU received a major endowment for stroke and dementia research. This enabled the Medical Faculty to set up a new Institute for Stroke and Dementia Research (ISD), which will be headed by Prof. Dichgans. Both institutes, the DZNE Munich and the ISD, as well as the Department of Biochemistry, will be integrated into the new research building.

This opens up completely novel interdisciplinary research strategies reaching from biophysics to patient oriented research. Thus, the DZNE Munich is extremely strengthened by its integration into a large interdisciplinary institute. Moreover, a very strong funding network including the DFG funded Collaborative Research Center "SFB 596 Molecular Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration" and the DFG Cluster of Excellence "Center for Integrated Protein Science" provides an optimal platform for collaborative research and recruitment.