BIOCATALYSIS BEYOND PROTEINS 2026

DATE: 02.11.2026

LOCATION: Heinrich Heine University, OASE Building (ground floor)

09:30 Arrival and Coffee

10:00 Welcome and Goals of the Network Meeting (Ingrid Span & Manuel Etzkorn)

Session I (session chair: Sabine Schneider)

10:20 Claudia Höbartner: *Writing and reading RNA modifications by nucleic acid catalysts*

10:45 Roland Sigel: *Theta-Ribozymes: Catalysis within the human gut microbiome*

11:10 Stephanie Kath-Schorr: *Beyond nature's alphabet: engineering nucleic acids for new functions*

11:35 Hannes Mutschler: *Ribozymes at the Interface of Synthetic Biology and Origin-of-Life Research*

12:00 Lunch and Poster Session (parallel: strategy satellite meeting)

Session II (session chair: Olav Schiemann)

13:30 Sabine Müller: *Engineering Ribozymes to Explore the RNA World*

13:55 Clemens Richert: *Organocatalytic Formation and Copying of RNA*

14:20 Günter Mayer: *RNA Optozymes: Harnessing Light to Control Gene Expression*

14:45 Richard Börner: *Room to react: How crowding tunes DNA and RNA catalysis*

15:10 Coffee Break and Poster Session

Session III (session chair: Kathrin Leppek)

16:10 Christina Weinberg: *Targeted discovery and biological roles of self-cleaving RNAs*

16:35 Alex Taylor: *RNA-cleaving DNAzymes and XNAzymes: some painful lessons in how NOT to study their activity inside cells*

17:00 Guido Clever: *Transition Metal-binding DNA G-Quadruplexes: Structure Control and Enantioselective Catalysis*

17:25 Kerstin Göpfrich: *RNA origami: Folds for future synthetic cells and therapeutics*

17:50 Closing Remarks

19:00 Dinner at Brauhaus zum Schlüssel