

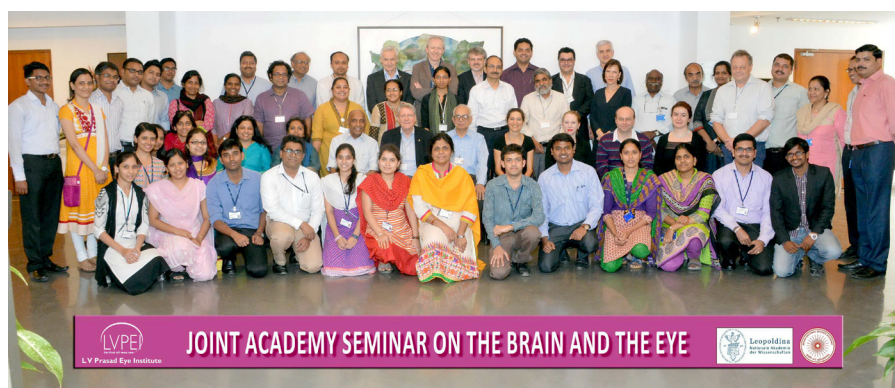
# Current research findings on the topic of sight

## Joint symposium of the Indian and German science academies held in Hyderabad (India)

As part of their strategic partnership, the Leopoldina and the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) held a joint symposium “Brain and Eye” in Hyderabad, India, on 1 and 2 February. Prof. Brigitte Röder ML of Universität Hamburg and Prof. Dorairajan Balasubramanian ML of LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad were responsible for the event’s scientific coordination.

Sight is the most complex of all our senses, and to understand it requires co-operation between various disciplines. The event brought Indian and German scientists together from fields including neurobiology, psychology, genetics and computational neurosciences, to present findings from experimental, theoretical and clinical research relating to the topic of sight. The presidents of both academies, Prof. Jörg Hacker ML and Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar ML, participated in the event, along with a number of well-established experts in their fields and many Indian junior scientists.

The day after the symposium, Brigitte Röder ML gave a public lecture in



Participants in the “Brain and Eye” symposium

photo: INSA

LV Prasad Eye Institute’s main auditorium entitled “Sensitive Phases in Human Brain Development”. This lecture was organised jointly by the Leopoldina, the German Research Foundation and the Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad. In his welcoming address, President Hacker took the opportunity to introduce the Indian public to the diversity of German research and to describe to the work of the Leopoldina as the national academy of sciences to all those present.

Prof. Hacker gave another public talk

on 4 February at the German House of Research and Innovation (DWIH) in New Delhi, an event organised by the Leopoldina, the German Embassy in India, and the DWIH. In his speech entitled “Science and Society – Infectious Diseases as an Example”, he described the causes and backgrounds to antimicrobial resistance and its consequences for society. During the lecture, he emphasised the Leopoldina’s national and international work in the area of policy advice, particularly with regard to the activities of the G7 academies. (rn)

## Providing policy advice worldwide

### InterAcademy Panel Conference in South Africa

The Conference of the InterAcademy Panel (IAP), the global network of science academies, took place from 28 February to 1 March in Hermanus, South Africa, with a focus on the topic of “Science Advice”. The conference attracted more than 200 participants from over 80 countries, making it the largest IAP Conference to date. It was organised by the President of the Leopoldina Prof. Jörg Hacker and the President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Prof. Daya Reddy, and was held to mark 20 years since the founding of ASSAf. The opening lecture by South African Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor highlighted the importance of ASSAf as a body that has provided science-based policy advice for the democratic development of South Africa over the past 20 years. The participants then held conference presentations

and panel discussions addressing the issue of how national governments and global organisations like the UN incorporate scientific findings into their work.

Following the conference, the IAP

General Assembly elected a new Executive Committee and confirmed that Prof. Volker ter Meulen ML, former President of the Leopoldina, will serve for three further years as Co-chair of the IAP for Science. Prof. Krishan Lal, former President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), was newly elected as Co-chair. In addition, the General Assembly confirmed that developments over the past years have



The newly elected Executive Committee for 2016-2019.

photo: Ed Lempinen

contributed to closer cooperation among the three global academy networks: the InterAcademy Panel (IAP), the InterAcademy Council (IAC), and the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP). Today, the new InterAcademy Partnership brings together more than 130 national science and medical academies with the goal of making better use of synergies in global science-based policy advice. (amg)