

## **The importance of communicating science: the story of Prof. Richter (UKJ) and Bad Kösen High School**

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Working in science also means communication to an audience about what you do, which results you have and which implication these can have in the future. However, this communication is different depending on the public you have: specific audience of the topic, general population or even students. The communication of science to students could be one of the most important divulgation ways since part of them will be the researches of the following generations. So, the motivation and passion for this job needs to be expressed joined with a correct language for a well understanding.

Prof. Dr. Frank Richter (Universitätsklinikum Jena, UKJ), supervisor of project 8 in TOBeATPAIN, is completely involved in the task of communicating science to young students, the formation of future researchers and the importance that science can have in the formation of them. Science is not only a serious job that involves designing experiments, doing them and writing the obtained results. Science has also part of fun, improves the development of skills and capabilities and improves the way of thinking. For that propose, Prof. Richter (in particular) and UKJ (in general) have been highly involved for more than 15 years in the importance of formation in science for young undergraduate students belonging to the Bad Kösen High School.

Every year since 2004 one or two students from that high school come to Prof. Richter's lab (located in the Institut für Physiologie I) every Wednesday during the academic year. They learn how science works and how is the research environment. They receive information about complying with regulation and laws and on principles of animal welfare and good scientific practice. Definitely, how the reality in science is behind the scenes because the concept of science is distorted by films and TV. For this type of formation, they learn in the lab small things we do in the lab such as how to prepare electrodes or how to analyze the data we obtained. After the year Prof. Richter accompanies the young students in science formation, they write a final report about the topic in the lab, the activities they performed the results they obtained. These exercises improve their ability to discuss and think, elements that are important not only for the scientific atmosphere, also have a key role in the daily life.

One of the most remarkable anecdotes comes from Dr. W. Lütz, currently in the department of Internal Medicine (UKJ). She was the first student during her high school period that came to science formation with Prof. Richter in 2004. After that, she decided to study Medicine in Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena (FSU) and do the doctoral thesis with Prof. Richter as well, receiving the doctoral degree in 2015. This show the importance of the labor Prof. Richter has and also a reason to be proud of.

Before I was selected for TOBeATPAIN, I worked in my hometown as free time monitor and my task was to be a booster teacher in Science and Math for high school students. In fact, I have the vocation of teaching and help young students to improve their skills. That's why I am glad to have the opportunity to do this formation task with the Bad Kösen students with Prof. Richter (my supervisor in TOBeATPAIN).

This year, we will follow the scientific education of two girls, Jette and Lena. For me and also for them is a great opportunity to have this formation in two languages, English and German. In that case, I can transmit them the importance of English in Science and they can help me to improve my German, language that I started to learn when I arrive to Jena. So, I will share that experience in the educational blog of the TOBeATPAIN and you can also follow the adventure of Jette and Lena in the world of Science.