

# Career Days 2026

Careers in Science and Beyond

Tuesday – Wednesday

24 – 25 November 2026

Day 1: 13:00 – 19:15 · Day 2: 09:00 – 16:45

Medical University of Innsbruck  
6020 Innsbruck

Excellence in research opens many doors — the Career Days help you find yours. Across two days, explore where a research career can lead: within academia, beyond it, and into entrepreneurship.

For pre- and postdocs from the basic and clinical sciences. Panels, keynotes, a fireside chat and hands-on workshops with honest insights and room for exchange.

## Day 1 · Tuesday, 24 November

### 13:00 Welcome & Greeting

Rector Gert Mayer

### 13:10 Keynote

Julia Hautz

### 13:30 Panel: Career Paths beyond Academia

Four professionals on building careers outside academia.

### 14:45 Panel: Career Paths within Academia

Four academics on building a sustainable career in research.

### 16:15 Entrepreneurship: Keynote & Panel

Turning research into a company — with founders and funding experts.

### 18:15 Fireside Chat: Does Academia Need a New Career Model?

A candid conversation on how academic careers are changing · Networking · Faculty Club

## Day 2 · Wednesday, 25 November — Workshops, max. 30 participants each

### 09:00 Workshop 1 — What Really Is Important to You

Self-awareness as the starting point for career orientation.

### 11:00 Workshop 2 — Transferable Skills

Recognise the skills you already have — and what they're worth.

### 13:15 Workshop 3 — Preparing for Your Job Interview

Analyse the role, anticipate questions and build convincing examples.

### 15:15 Workshop 4—Navigating Your Job Interview with Confidence

Handle unexpected questions and steer the conversation.



**Registration required — seats are limited**

Register now → [forms.cloud.microsoft/e/UKiq912qcJ](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/UKiq912qcJ)



SUPPORTED BY



LUDWIG  
BOLTZMANN  
GESELLSCHAFT  
Career Center

Organised by the Medical University of Innsbruck · Career Days 2026 · contact: [office@medlifelab.at](mailto:office@medlifelab.at)

# Speakers

Career Days 2026 · Medical University of Innsbruck

## KEYNOTE



**Julia Hautz**

**Keynote speaker**

Opening keynote of the Career Days. Full biography to follow.

## CAREER PATHS BEYOND ACADEMIA



**Julia Hofmann**

**Session Chair · Postdoctoral scientist, organLife**

PhD from the Medical University of Innsbruck; now a postdoctoral scientist at organLife – Organ Regeneration Center of Excellence. Holds board roles with the Austrian Society for Surgical Research and the ESOT Basic Science Committee, and is active as a mentor and lecturer.



**Leonie Kohlhammer**

**Senior Consultant, Scitaris**

PhD jointly from the Barts Cancer Institute and King's College London on metastatic melanoma. Now Senior Consultant at Scitaris, shaping strategy that drives impact for patients; previously built research communities such as the London Cancer PhD network and Pint of Science.



**Georg Obermayer**

**Physician-scientist · MD, PhD**

MD, PhD focused on haematology, nephrology and rheumatology. Led medical launch strategies for rare-disease therapies across Austria and Switzerland at CSL Vifor and SOBI, and has published in Nature and Blood. Currently in physician training at Hanusch Hospital, Vienna.



**Daniela Schmidt**

**Senior Clinical Scientist, Roche**

PhD in biotechnology, research experience at Roche, Dana-Farber/Harvard, and Queen's University Belfast; inventor on two patents and co-author of publications in cancer immunotherapy and novel therapeutics. Now a Senior Clinical Scientist in Early Clinical Development Oncology at Roche.



**Marco Thurner**

**Patent Attorney, Thurner IP**

Molecular biologist (PhD, MSc) from the Medical University of Innsbruck with R&D experience across biotech and medical devices. Qualified as a European and German Patent Attorney and, since 2025, owner of the Thurner IP law firm.

## CAREER PATHS WITHIN ACADEMIA



**Yousra El Ghaleb**

**Session Chair · Postdoctoral scientist · Group leader (FWF ESPRIT), MUI**

Completed her PhD at the Medical University of Innsbruck, identifying CACNA1I as a disease gene for neurodevelopmental disorders. An FWF ESPRIT awardee (2023), she now [leads her own group](#) on CACNA1I channelopathies and is a representative of the Med Uni Innsbruck Postdoc Network.



**Gisa Gerold**

**Director, Institute of Virology, MUI**

Virologist and biochemist specialising in virus–host interactions and zoonotic viruses. PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, international research experience at Rockefeller University, Umea University, and a full professorship in Hannover. [Director of the Institute of Virology](#) at the Medical University of Innsbruck since November 2024.



**Graham Tebb**

**Research funding & mentoring, MUI**

Biochemistry at Oxford, a doctorate at EMBL Heidelberg and a postdoc at the IMP Vienna — then a career away from the bench: editor at Nature, administrator at the UN and the Austrian Science Fund, and since 2010 at Vetmeduni Vienna (MedUni Innsbruck since 2024). He helps researchers secure funding and runs soft-skills courses and an early-career mentoring programme.



**Polina Bozatzi**

**Research Project Coordinator, ISTA**

Research-driven project manager with 10+ years in biomedical research and EU-funded project coordination. After a PhD in biochemistry and cell signalling (University of Dundee) and a postdoc in paediatric oncology, she moved into project management and is now Research Project Coordinator at the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA).



**Anne Krogsdam**

**Ass. Prof. Bioinformatics · MultiOmics Core, MUI**

Associate professor at the Institute of Bioinformatics and head of the [MultiOmics Sequencing Core Facility](#) at the Medical University of Innsbruck. After a PhD at the University of Southern Denmark and postdoctoral research in Graz and Innsbruck, her work spans transcriptional regulation, single-cell sequencing in cancer and immunology, and spatial transcriptomics.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP PANEL

ES

### Eduard Stefan

#### Co-founder & CEO, KinCon biolabs

Biochemist at the University of Innsbruck and co-founder & CEO of KinCon biolabs, a spin-off of the university. Its patented live-cell biosensor platform reveals how drugs change the structure and function of kinases directly in living cells, helping pharma match the right inhibitor to a patient's specific mutation in cancer and Parkinson's disease. Grown from an FFG fellowship into a company in 2022, with pilots alongside international biotech and pharma partners.

LD

### Liesa Doppler

#### Programme Manager, aws Life Science Austria (LISA)

Programme manager at Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) within Life Science Austria (LISA), the federal programme supporting life-science founders and start-ups. She leads LISA's international marketing and manages the Best of Biotech (BoB) start-up competition, connecting founders with financing, funding and access to global markets.

## FIRESIDE CHAT

Are traditional academic career paths still fit for purpose? This fireside chat brings together senior researchers and policy-makers to explore how academic careers are changing and where current structures fall short. The discussion will consider alternative career models, barriers to change, and practical steps towards creating more diverse, flexible, and sustainable career paths that better serve both researchers and society.



### Kristin Eichhorn

#### Co-initiator, #IchBinHanna

PD Dr. and substitute professor of Modern German Literature at the [University of Stuttgart](#). Co-initiator of [#IchBinHanna](#) and a prominent voice against precarity in German academia.



### Katharina Riesinger

#### BMFWF · Higher Education Strategy 2040

Background in the humanities and social sciences; at the Austrian Federal Ministry (BMFWF) since 2021, where she coordinates the [Higher Education Strategy 2040](#) and works on the advancement of academic careers.



### Karin Tausz

#### Managing Director of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

Managing Director of the [FFG](#) since 2023. Previous experience includes innovation and research management and corporate development at the Austrian Federal Railways, the Swiss Federal Railways, the automotive sector, and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).

# Workshops

Career Days 2026 · Medical University of Innsbruck

## Workshop 1 — What Really Is Important to You

Self-awareness as the starting point for career orientation.

Often unsure how to approach the next career step, many early career researchers directly start searching for job options without taking the time to reflect where they are standing today in life and what is truly important to them. The latter, however, facilitates informed decision making and a successful career transition. In this interactive workshop, participants will discover their values and their Why – that's where meaning and motivation lie. Through guided reflection, practical exercises, and peer exchange, they will increase their awareness about what fulfills them, which empowers them to take steps towards the next career decision that suits them best.

### Takeaways

- Understanding of what is important to you
- Discovery of your purpose and inner drivers
- Approaches and tools for a successful career orientation

---

## Workshop 2 — Transferable Skills for Career Transitions

Recognise the skills you already have — and what they're worth.

During a scientific journey, early career researchers develop far more than specialized expertise - they continuously strengthen a whole range of transferable skills. While mostly taken for granted by doctoral researchers and postdocs, these competencies are highly valued in various careers both inside and outside academia. This interactive workshop is targeted at experienced doctoral researchers and postdocs, supporting them to identify and gain awareness of the valuable transferable skills they possess for their upcoming career transition. Through guided reflection, practical exercises, and peer exchange, participants will learn how to recognize and confidently communicate these strengths. Consequently, also their view is widened on how transferable skills can be applied across different career paths and professional contexts.

### Takeaways

- Identification of key transferable skills gained during the scientific journey
- Reflection on strengths developed through academic challenges and research
- Communication of competencies through concrete examples and storytelling

---

## Workshop 3 — Preparing for Your Job Interview



Analyse the role, anticipate questions and build convincing examples.

Good preparation can make a significant difference in how confidently and clearly you present yourself in a job interview. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore key steps in preparing for an interview, from analysing the position and anticipating relevant questions to identifying convincing examples from their own experience. Short practical exercises will help participants apply these strategies to their own job search.

---

## Workshop 4 — Navigating Your Job Interview with Confidence



Handle unexpected questions and steer the conversation.

Job interviews require more than prepared answers: they also involve responding to unexpected questions, communicating clearly and actively engaging in the conversation. This interactive workshop focuses on putting interview preparation into practice and navigating the conversation with greater confidence. Through practical exercises, participants will have the opportunity to apply different approaches and gain experience in handling interview situations.

## Trainers

### Workshop 1 & 2



#### Nicola Bauer

##### Systemic career coach, JoyWorks

Trainer and systemic coach for doctoral researchers and postdocs, focused on purposeful career development, self-awareness and mental health. After a doctorate in stem-cell biology (MPI-CBG Dresden), pharma consulting and a second degree in psychology, she founded [JoyWorks Trainings](#) in 2023.

### Workshop 3 & 4



#### Stefanie Stipsits

##### Expert People Development, LBG Career Center

Experience in various HR roles across academia, the private sector and the non-profit sector in Austria and Germany, with focus on human resource management, people development and recruitment. Now working in Career & People Development at the [LBG Career Center](#), supporting pre- and postdoctoral researchers in actively shaping their careers.



#### Lisa Maria Pereira de Lima

##### Expert People Development, LBG Career Center

Background in education and adult learning, with experience spanning learning and development, HR-related topics, innovative teaching and the design and facilitation of training and e-learning formats for diverse target groups. She currently works as a People Development Expert at the [LBG Career Center](#), supporting researchers at all career stages as well as contributing to internal people development across LBG.