

# Old Herborn University Seminar

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## MICROBIOME AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

**July 17-18, 2025**  
**Hohe Schule, Herborn-Dill**  
**Germany**

Presented by the Old Herborn  
University Foundation  
Herborn-Dill, Germany



Old Herborn University

## Old Herborn University Foundation

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### History

The Old Herborn University was founded in 1584 by William I. The Silent, Prince of Orange and Count of Nassau, and his brother, Count Johann VI. of Nassau-Dillenburg-Katzenelnbogen. The structure of the Schola Johannea was oriented at the organisation of the universities in Geneva and Strasbourg. In addition to a Schola privata, comparable to a college of our times, a Schola publica, the university, was built. Faculties in theology, philosophy, jurisprudence, and medicine were installed. As the first reformational university in Germany, the Alma Mater Johannea, the “Hohe Schule”, did not only attract numerous students, among them Jan Amos Comenius, but also supported important scholars, as Althusius, Olevian, and Piscator. Many of such influential scholars exerted considerable effects upon historical developments in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, England, eastern and northern Europe, and North America. The small town of Herborn in Nassau became well renowned throughout Europe during 1584 and 1630. War and political changes, however, reduced the importance of the academy more and more, until it was ordered to be closed by Napoleon in 1812 and consequently ceased to exist in 1817. The only remainder of the four faculties is a theological seminary, which now occupies the Castle of Herborn.

[www.old-herborn-university.de](http://www.old-herborn-university.de)



## Old Herborn University Seminar

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In honour of the 400th anniversary of the Alma Mater Johannea an International Symposium on Intestinal Microecology was held at Herborn 1984. This special meeting initiated the revival of academic activities at the „Hohe Schule“ in the medical field and life sciences. The remarkable symposium stimulated some distinguished ideas and generated the plan to install a series of seminars with a new scientific format at the Old Academy of Herborn.

The Old Herborn University Seminar series started in 1986 and became a splendid success recognized worldwide. The academic activities resulted in the establishment of an independant „Old Herborn University Foundation“ in 2003. This non-profit institution is dedicated to the promotion of science and research, in the field of medicine, biomedical and life sciences, respectively. The 24th seminar on the „Development of Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Effective Mucosal Immunization of Infants in Developing Countries“ in 2010 was supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH, a global health organization. The 2025 topic is “Microbiome and Neurological Disorders” reflecting a fascinating development in life sciences.

All information upon the Old Herborn University Foundation is accessible via internet, as well as all monographs subsequently published following the individual seminars.

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## Official Programm

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### MICROBIOME AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Thursday July 17, 2025

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08:00 - 08:30	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
08:30 - 08:40	<b>Official Salutation &amp; Welcome</b>
08:40 - 09:00	<b>Introduction – A short History of the Old Herborn University</b> Volker Rusch / Peter Heidt
09:00	<b>Session I: GUT-BRAIN AXIS</b> Chairman: Rochellys Diaz Heijtz
09:00 - 09:30	<b>The Role of the Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis in Neurological Disorders</b> Rochellys Diaz Heijtz
09:30 - 10:00	<b>Microbes as Mentors: Guiding Infant Neurodevelopment from the Gut</b> Antonio Suarez
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Metabolomics of the Gut-Brain Axis</b> Jonathan Swann
10:30 - 10:40	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
10:40 - 11:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00	<b>SESSION 2: TRANSLATIONAL ASPECTS</b> Chairman: Christoph Mann

## Official Programm

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- 11:00 - 11:30     **Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Treatment of Parkinson Disease**  
Filip Scheperjans
- 11:30 - 12:00     **The Gut-Brain Axis in Multiple Sclerosis: Unraveling the Role of Gut Microbiota**  
Ashutosh Mangalam
- 12:00 - 13:00     **LUNCH**
- 13:00 - 13:30     **The role of the Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis in Psychiatry & beyond**  
Valerie Taylor
- 13:30 - 13:40     **DISCUSSION**
- 13:40             **SESSION 3: YOUNG ACADEMICS**  
**Student Talks & Poster Session**  
Chairman: Jörg W. Bartsch  
Title and Speaker to be announced
- 13:40 - 13:55     **Student-Talk I**
- 13:55 - 14:10     **Student-Talk II**
- 14:10 - 14:25     **Student-Talk III**
- 14:25 - 14:45     **COFFEE BREAK**
- 14:45- 16:00     **POSTER SESSION**

## Official Programm

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- 16:00 - 16:30     **Academic Ceremony**
- 16:30             **Courtyard Reception**
- 19:00             **FORMAL DINNER & SOCIAL EVENT**  
Open bar, good music and the opportunity to dance

## Friday July 18, 2025

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- 09:00 - 12:00     **INTERNAL DISCUSSION I**  
Discussion amongst OHU-Faculty & international Speakers
- 12:00 - 13:00     **LUNCH**
- 13:00 - 15:00     **INTERNAL DISCUSSION II**
- 16:30 - 17:00     **City-Tour**  
Tour around the old University
- 18:30             **DINNER**



**Old Herborn University**

## Executive Committee

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**Dr. rer. nat. Volker Rusch**

Old Herborn University Foundation  
P.O. Box 1765,  
35727 HERBORN,  
GERMANY

**Prof. Dr. Peter J. Heidt**

Willem Alexander Children's Hospital  
Leiden University Medical Center  
THE NETHERLANDS

**Dr. med. Tillmann Rusch, M.Sc.**

University Hospital Gießen & Marburg  
Department of Hematology, Oncology & Immunology  
GERMANY

**PD Dr. med. Jörg C. Hoffmann**

University Hospital Gießen & Marburg  
Department of Hematology, Oncology & Immunology  
GERMANY

**Dr. med. Christoph Mann**

University Hospital Gießen & Marburg  
Department of Hematology, Oncology & Immunology  
GERMANY

## Science Advisory Committee

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**Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Jörg W. Bartsch**

University Hospital Gießen & Marburg  
Department of Neurosurgery  
GERMANY

## Science Advisory Committee

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**Prof. Tore Midtvedt, M.D., Ph.D.**

Microbiology and Tumorbiology Center Karolinska  
Institute  
171 77 STOCKHOLM,  
SWEDEN

**Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Andreas Schwiertz**

Institut für Mikroökologie  
34745 HERBORN,  
GERMANY

**Assoc. Prof. Rochellys Diaz Heijtz, Ph.D.**

Department of Neuroscience  
Karolinska Institute  
171 77 STOCKHOLM,  
SWEDEN

**Janelle Arthur, Assistant Professor, Ph.D.**

UNC Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7290,  
USA

**Michael Lohoff, Professor em., Dr. med.**

Emeritus University Hospital Gießen & Marburg  
Department of Microbiology  
35043 MARBURG,  
GERMANY

**Aadra Bhatt, Assistant Professor, Ph.D.**

UNC Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7290,  
USA

## OHUS Faculty 2025

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### **Assoc. Prof. Rochellys Diaz Heijtz, PhD**

Principal Investigator and Associate Professor in  
Developmental and Translational Neuroscience,  
Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute,  
SWEDEN

### **Prof. Antonio F. Suarez Garcia, PhD**

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
University of Granada  
SPAIN

### **Prof. Jonathan Swann, PhD**

Professor of Biomolecular Medicine, University of  
Southampton  
UNITED KINGDOM

### **Assoc. Prof. Filip Scheperjans, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor of Neurology,  
Helsinki University Hospital,  
FINLAND

### **Assoc. Prof. Ashutosh Mangalam, PhD**

Department of Pathology,  
University Iowa  
USA

### **Prof. Valerie Taylor, MD, PhD**

Professor and Head of Department of Psychiatry  
University of Calgary  
USA

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## Contact Information

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### **Rebecca Pfeiffer**

Old Herborn University Foundation  
35745 HERBORN,  
GERMANY  
Phone: +49 (0) 176/617 145 48  
E-Mail: [erpfeiffer@web.de](mailto:erpfeiffer@web.de)

## CME Accreditation

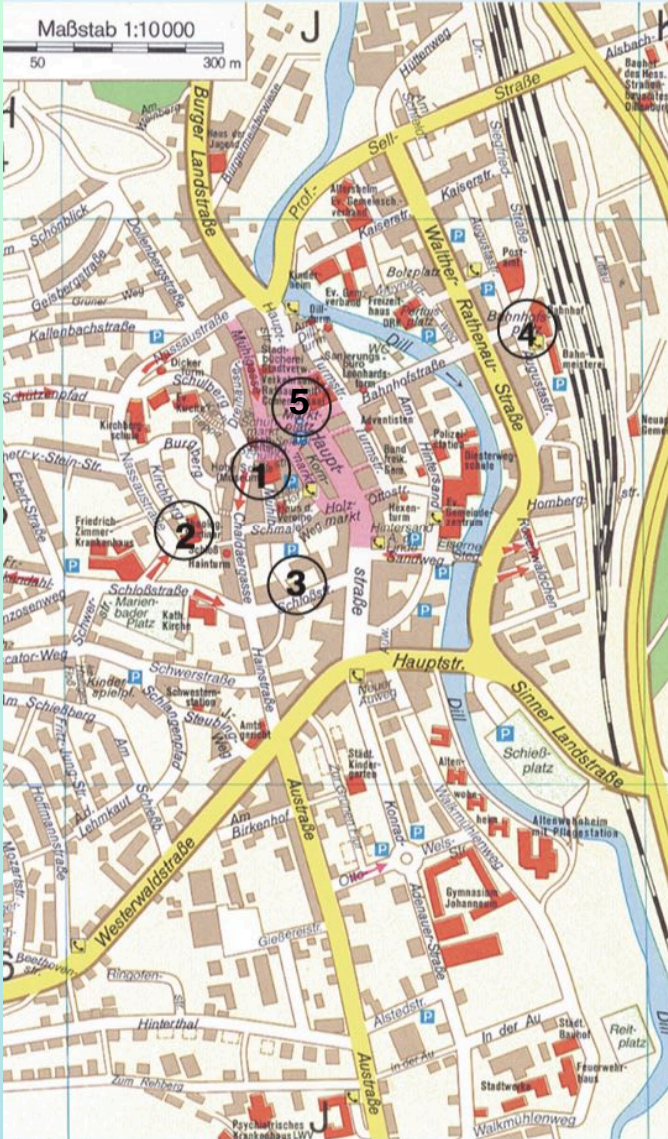
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This event has been submitted for CME  
Accreditation by the State Chamber of Physicians.

The content of this event is designed to be product-  
and service-neutral. We confirm that the scientific  
lead and the speakers disclose any potential  
conflicts of interest to the participants. There is no  
sponsorship for this event.



## Travel



## Travel

**Herborn** is located approximately 100 kilometers to the northwest of Frankfurt at the base of the Westwood Forest between Wetzlar and Siegen. Herborn is conveniently accessible by railway or Autobahn. The airport of Frankfurt offers worldwide airline connections. The airports Köln/Bonn and Düsseldorf provide further access.

**For travel arrangements contact:  
Rebecca Pfeiffer**

Old Herborn University Foundation  
Dompfaffweg 6,  
D-35745 HERBORN,  
GERMANY

Phone: +49 (0) 176/617 145 48

E-Mail: [erpfeiffer@web.de](mailto:erpfeiffer@web.de)

### Map-Legend

1. Town Hall Seminary - Hohe Schule
2. Herborn Castle with Theological Seminary
3. Schloß Hotel Herborn  
Telephone +49 2772/7060
4. Railway Station
5. Town Hall

## Location Germany

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## Registration

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**Public Presentation,**  
Old Herborn University Seminar July 17, 2025

**Old Herborn University Seminar**  
**Admission Fee: €50**  
Includes: Scientific Sessions, Lunch & Coffee Breaks

**Formal Dinner & Social Event**  
**Admission Fee: €50**  
Includes: Dinner, Open Bar, DJ + Dance

**Join us for a full day of science and  
celebration!**

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Registration under  
[www.old-herborn-university.de/event](http://www.old-herborn-university.de/event)





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