

# Old Herborn University Seminar

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## MICROBIOME AND BOWEL DISORDERS

**July 16-17, 2026**  
**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 independent „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.

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

## Official Programm

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### MICROBIOME AND BOWEL DISORDERS

Thursday July 16, 2026

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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><br>Peter Heidt                                 |
| 09:00         | <b>Session I: BASIC BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH</b><br>Chairwoman: Elena Verdu   |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | <b>Microbiome-Driven Failure of Mucosal Immunity and Repair in Intestinal Inflammation</b><br>Thaddeus Stappenbeck |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | <b>Neural and Glial Circuits at the Microbiome–Mucosal Interface in Intestinal Disease</b><br>Meenakshi Rao        |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | <b>Gut Sensory Circuits at the Interface of Nutrients, Microbes and Bowel Function</b><br>Maya Kaelberer           |
| 10:30 - 10:40 | <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  |
| 11:00         | <b>SESSION 2: TRANSLATIONAL ASPECTS</b><br>Chairman: Premysl Bercik  |

## Official Programm

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- 11:00 - 11:30     **Translational Advances in Coeliac Disease and Food Sensitivity**  
Elena Verdu
- 11:30 - 12:00     **Translating Microbiome and Gut–Brain Mechanisms into Precision Care for IBS**  
Premysl Bercik
- 12:00 - 13:00     **LUNCH**
- 13:00 - 13:30     **Targeting the Gut Microbiome in IBD: Translational Pathways to Better Patient Care**  
Harry Sokol
- 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 17, 2026

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

Willem Alexander Children's Hospital  
Leiden University Medical Center  
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**Dr. med. Christoph Mann**

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

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**Prof. Elena Verdu, MD, Ph.D.**

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**Prof. Premysl Bercik, MD**

McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West  
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CANADA

## OHUS Faculty 2026

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**Prof. Thaddeus Stappenbeck, MD, Ph.D.**

Chair of Inflammation and Immunity at Cleveland Clinic  
9500 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44195  
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**Assoc. Prof. Meenakshi Rao, MD, Ph.D.**

Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
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**Assist. Prof. M. Maya Kaelberer, Ph.D.**

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**Prof. Harry Sokol, MD, Ph.D.**

Department of Gastroenterology, Saint-Antoine Hospital  
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FRANCE

## Contact Information

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## CME Accreditation

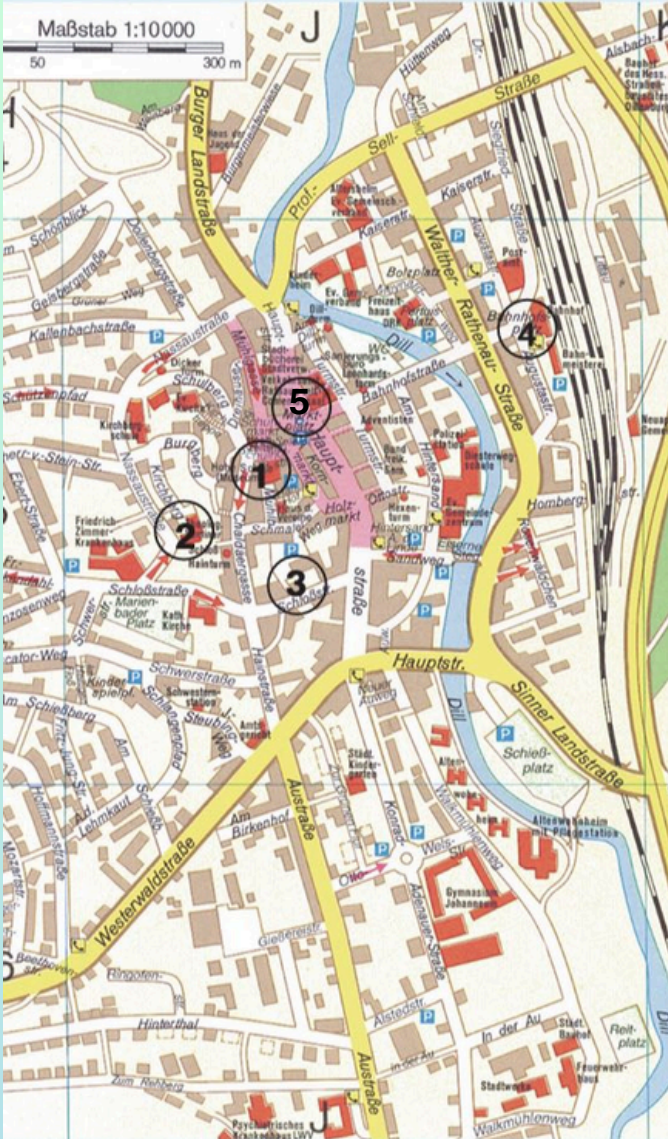
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This event has been submitted for CME  
Accreditation by the State Chamber of Physicians.

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.

The total cost of the seminar is approximately  
€ 40,000 and is fully covered by the Old Herborn  
University Foundation.

## 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**

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### 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 16, 2026

**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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