

# DBMR Board of Directors

In 2021, we are introducing the new organization of the DBMR to reflect the consolidation of DBMR sites in the new Mu24 building, changes in research needs, and the migration of animal experimentation to the newly established EAC. To implement the new organization, we have created a Board of Directors composed of the Director (Prof. Mark A. Rubin, MD), the Deputy Director, and three Contact PIs of the Research Programs, which allows active research members of the DBMR to be involved in the inter-workings of the department for a period of two years with the possibility of re-election. During the redesign of the DBMR Research Programs in 2019, each Research Program appointed a contact PI to represent the other PIs in the Program. The few laboratories that are not part of a Program, chose an independent “Laboratory Program Contact PI”, through which they are jointly represented. He/She was also eligible for election as a member of the Board of Directors.

The election for the Board of Directors was held from March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The DBMR Lab Heads were requested to choose 4 candidates for the Board of Directors. Following the results, 2 candidates had a run off for the position of the Deputy Director from March 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## Director, Prof. Mark A. Rubin, MD

### Program: Cancer Therapy Resistance (CTR)



Mark A. Rubin, MD, Professor, Principal Investigator, and Director of the Department for BioMedical Research (DBMR), University of Bern, Switzerland. Prof. Mark Rubin is a recognized world-renown leader in prostate cancer genomics and pathology, and precision medicine. Dr. Rubin’s laboratory led a series of landmark studies defining distinct molecular features of prostate cancer, revealing pathways that are perturbed and drive different types of this cancer. Furthermore, Prof. Rubin has translated many of his genomic discoveries into clinical tests that are currently patented and standardly used in the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. Prof. Rubin founded the Englander Institute for Precision Medicine and, more recently, the Bern Center for Precision Medicine (BCPM).

## Deputy Director, Prof. Dr. med. Anne Angelillo-Scherrer

Program: Blood



Anne Angelillo-Scherrer, MD, specialist in internal medicine and hematology, is full Professor of Medicine, University of Bern and Director of the Department of Hematology, Bern University Hospital, Switzerland. She is also a member of the Research Council of the SNSF. Prof. Angelillo-Scherrer has more than 20 years of experience in experimental and translational medicine and is recognized as an expert in translational hemostasis and thrombosis. Prof. Angelillo-Scherrer laboratory discovered novel hemostasis pathways that are significant for thrombosis *in vivo* and can provide clinically relevant biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

Furthermore, Dr. Angelillo-Scherrer's laboratory made important findings in the mechanisms of hemostasis regulation, which have been translated into the production of a drug to treat hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

## PD Dr. phil. Marianna Kruithof-de Julio

Program: Cancer Therapy Resistance (CTR)



Marianna Kruithof-de Julio, PhD, PD, Principal Investigator, Head of the Urology Research Laboratory, Director of the DBMR Organoid CORE facility, Member of the Bern Cancer Research Cluster (BCRC), of the Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine Steering Committee and Associate Member of the NCCR RNA and Disease. Dr Kruithof-de Julio is a leading expert in the field of prostate cancer stem-cell biology and *in vivo* and *ex vivo* models. The Kruithof-de Julio laboratory has established matrix free cultures of primary and metastatic prostate and bladder cancer organoids that allow medium through put drug screen and personalized medicine.

## **Ass. Prof. Volker Enzmann, Ph.D.**

**Program: Regenerative Neuroscience**



Volker Enzmann, PhD, Associated Professor, Principal Investigator, and Research Director of the Department Ophthalmology, University of Bern, Switzerland. For many years, Volker Enzmann is working in the field of retinal pathophysiology and ensuing repair mechanisms. Dr. Enzmann's laboratory is investigating remodeling in the vertebrate retina by employing a variety of in vitro and in vivo models with induced degeneration. Thereby, the identification of interconnected signaling pathways and the discovery of an involvement of the innate immune system open possibilities for modulation towards regeneration. His research is focused on optimizing endogenous regeneration as a therapeutic approach for retinal degenerative disease. Prof. Enzmann is cofounder of the Cluster for Regenerative Neuroscience, now a research platform in the DBMR, and the Platform for Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine Bern (SCRM).

## **Ass. Prof. Dr. Carsten Riether**

**Program: UMRO Translational Cancer Research**



Carsten Riether, PhD, Associate Professor, Principal Investigator and Head of Research at the Department of Medical Oncology, Inselspital, University Hospital and University of Bern, Switzerland. Prof. Riether is a trained immunologist with a proven track record in cancer stem cell biology. Dr. Riether's research focuses on understanding how immune cells and immune-related factors regulate cancer stem cells in solid tumors and leukemias. He and his collaborators contributed seminal studies to the field of cancer stem cells and translated pre-clinical findings into clinical testing, paving the way for the development, amongst others, of the human CD70 antibody cusatuzumab.