

Dear Friends of the Indo-German Workshop Series “NMR Meets Biology”,

Welcome to Großbothen for the third meeting of the “NMR Meets Biology” series of workshops.

What started as a first scientific conference in Goa, India, in 2014 to bring together researchers mostly from India and Germany continued in 2016 as a school to train the next generation scientists from India in Kerala, India, and now takes the third round with yet another focus. Our current meeting in Großbothen, Saxony, Germany, is organized as a bilateral workshop, especially for younger Indian and German researchers, along with very distinguished scientists representing the leaders in the field. The main goal next to the exchange of new data, scientific ideas, and discussions about the future directions in the field is to elaborate further on scientific collaborations between our laboratories, some of which have already started. The German Research Foundation (DFG) sponsored this meeting generously with the intention to foster the scientific dialogue, develop ideas for common research projects, and work out ways and means of students and postdocs exchange between the two countries. We warmly invite all of you to very actively get involved in this process and hopefully work out new exciting ideas for common research projects between here and there.

In the last decades, scientists from India have worked abroad and greatly advanced various branches of science in Western countries. In the past, most of these colleagues sought for permanent employment abroad and now run successful laboratories all over the world. However, we are currently witnessing a continuous stream of young Indian researchers returning to India after training in Western countries. India, a country of great opportunities, has launched numerous programs and invested significant resources to build up modern structures of high-quality research facilities. This very impressive trend has allowed for young researchers to start their own laboratories in India and train the next generation of Indian scientists. Clearly, the time has come for more exchange in both directions and our meeting is understood to contribute to this development by all of us discussing common projects and perspectives for the exchange of students and postdocs doing research on both ends.

“NMR Meets Biology” is really a crude simplification of the expertise and backgrounds of all participants of the meeting. We are proud that the theme of the workshop has attracted scientists with a much broader background than either NMR or Biology, really bringing together natural scientists in the best sense. This is the way how modern science works. This brings us to Wilhelm Ostwald and Großbothen. Our meeting is hosted in the Wilhelm Ostwald Park in Großbothen, home to the founder of Physical Chemistry and Nobel Prize Laureate (1909 "in recognition of his work on catalysis and for his investigations into the fundamental principles governing chemical equilibria and rates of reaction") who worked in Großbothen and inspired the world by his novel, seminal and sometimes controversial contributions to the field. His examples will also be inspiring to all of us in our desire to study new systems and find out hidden knowledge. We will have a chance to visit the Wilhelm Ostwald Museum and Wilhelm Ostwald Park during the meeting and get more familiar with this great scientist.

Wilhelm Ostwald also reminds us that natural science and philosophy are closely related. There is also an important Saxon contribution to the world heritage of philosophy, which we will get exposed to, namely Friedrich Nietzsche in Röcken. We will visit the Nietzsche

Gedenkstätte in Röcken and listen to a talk “Friedrich Nietzsche and the world: an intercultural dialogue” by Prof. Dr. Elmar Schenkel from the University of Leipzig. So our workshop will be flanked by very famous yet challenging ideas of a great physical chemist and a great philosopher. Both should inspire us in our desire to uncover new knowledge, solve tough problems, and advance science in the best possible way. This, we strongly believe, is a task we will more and more have to solve commonly in a fair and collaborative atmosphere. This is the vision for the third Indo-German Workshop.

So to all new and all well-known colleagues and friends of the Indo-German dialogue, a very warm welcome to Großbothen. We look forward to an exciting meeting, vivid discussions, and prospectively many common research projects and active exchange.



Prof. Dr. Daniel Huster



Prof. Dr. Perunthiruthy K. Madhu