

Save the Date: Founding Symposium of the Center of Medical Psychology and Translational Neuroscience

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the founding of our **Center of Medical Psychology and Translational Neuroscience** at the Medical Faculty of Ruhr University Bochum, which brings together three departments of the Medical Faculty—chaired by Adriane Icenhour, Dirk Scheele, and Sigrid Elsenbruch—at the interface of medical psychology and affective, social, and clinical neuroscience. To celebrate this occasion, we are hereby inviting you to our **Symposium “Advancing Health through Translation”**, which will take place on **May 13, 2026**, at the Dampfgebläsehaus, Jahrhunderthalle Bochum, a venue whose industrial heritage and cultural significance reflect the spirit of adaptive change and innovation central to our work.

The symposium provides a forum for scientific exchange spanning basic mechanisms and translational perspectives in health neuroscience and psychology. It brings together researchers from diverse disciplines and career stages and features scientific sessions alongside a poster session highlighting research and methods from the Center and its regional partners to foster knowledge exchange, networking, and the development of new collaborations.

We are delighted to welcome an outstanding group of confirmed speakers, organized across four thematic sessions:

Session 1: Neural Circuits of Fear and Threat: From Adaptive Defense to Psychopathology

[Onur Güntürkün](#), Ruhr University Bochum

[Andreas Olsson](#), Karolinska Institutet

[Johan W S Vlaeyen](#), Maastricht University; KU Leuven

Session 2: Translating Mechanisms to the Clinic: Insights and Interventions in Pain and Depression

[Ulrike Bingel](#), University of Duisburg-Essen

[Carmen Schäuffele](#), Freie Universität Berlin

Session 3: Synthetic Relationships: Opportunities and Risks in Human-AI Interactions

[Nils Köbis](#), University of Duisburg-Essen

[Ruud Hortensius](#), Utrecht University

Session 4: The Gut–Brain Axis: Interoceptive Signaling in Mental and Physical Health

[Susanna Walter](#), Linköping University

[Lukas van Oudenhove](#), KU Leuven

Further details, including the full programme and a link to the registration website, will be circulated shortly. We would be delighted if you could join us for this occasion and kindly ask you to save the date.

With best regards,

The Organizing Chairs

Sigrid Elsenbruch, Adriane Icenhour, Dirk Scheele



Center of Medical Psychology
and Translational Neuroscience