NOBEL LAUREATES



ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC HOME OF 23 NOBEL LAUREATES

UNI FREIBURG

The following recipients of the Nobel Prize have researched, taught, or studied at the University of Freiburg:

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Joachim Frank, 2017 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG Academic and Scientific Home of 23 Nobel Laureates

The Albert-Ludwig University in Freiburg has been the place of study or work of 23 scientists who received the most prestigious award available to men and women in their fields: **the Nobel Prize.**

The Nobel Prize is only awarded in a handful of selected disciplines. This brochure can thus only focus on a few of the outstanding researchers who have called the University of Freiburg their scientific home. The numerous University of Freiburg researchers who have been honored with other important national and international accolades are recognized in the publications of the university and the individual faculties as well as at the "Uniseum Freiburg."

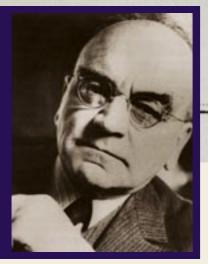
Even to this day, the names of former professors such as Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Walter Eucken, Hugo Friedrich, and Bertha Ottenstein contribute – as do those of the Nobel laureates – to the reputation of the University of Freiburg.

The ten Freiburg Nobel laureates presented here in greater detail taught and researched in the fields of medicine and physiology, chemistry, and economic sciences. As professors, they had a particularly close bond with the University of Freiburg, a haven of knowledge which continues to promote and inspire innovative research and instruction today.

Following the detailed accounts, we present brief portraits of a further 13 Nobel prize winners who studied or launched their scientific careers at the University of Freiburg.

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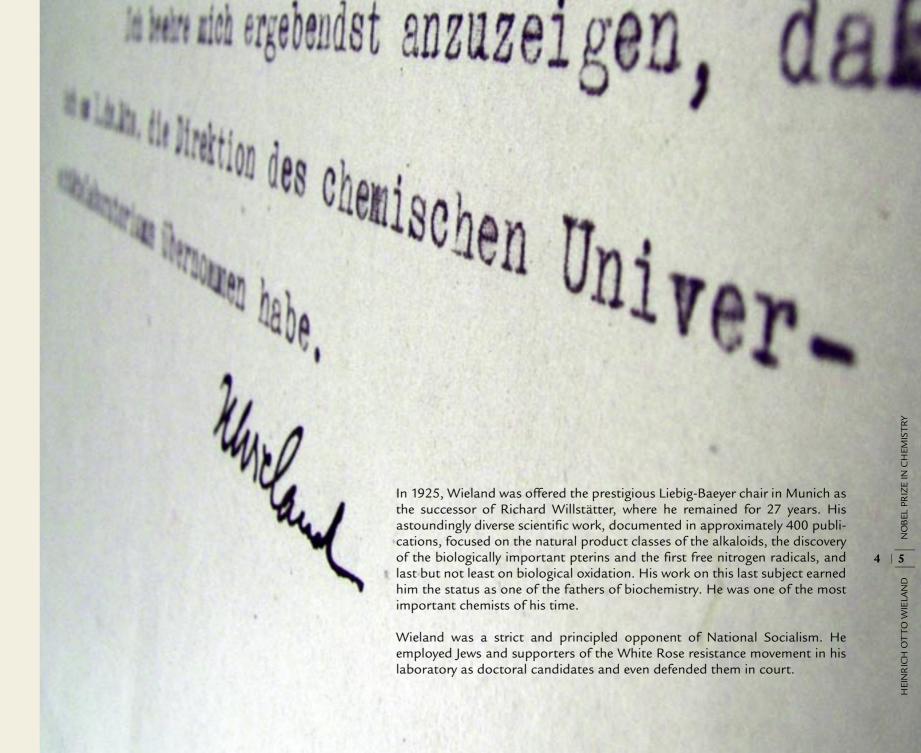
CHEMISCHES LABORATORIUM DER UNIVERSITÄT



HEINRICH OTTO WIELAND

1927 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1877-1957

Heinrich Otto Wieland was born in Pforzheim and studied chemistry in Munich, Berlin, and Stuttgart. In 1901 he received his doctorate at Adolf von Baeyer's renowned Bavarian State Laboratory, where he remained for several years as a young scientist. In 1917 he received a full professorship at the Technical College in Munich, and in 1921 he was offered a chair in Freiburg. During his four years in Freiburg, which he referred to as "some of the most pleasant in my scientific career", he laid the foundation for his Nobel Prize winning clarification of the constitution of the bile acids, members of the most important natural product class of steroids, which includes cholesterol and Vitamin D (A. Windaus), the sex hormones (A. Butenandt), and the compounds which form the basis of synthetic contraceptives.



ADOLF OTTO REINHOLD WINDAUS

Adolf Windaus was born and raised in Berlin, where he also began his studies of medicine and chemistry, attending, among others, the lectures of 1902 Nobel laureate Emil Fischer. He then came to Freiburg to complete his doctorate (1899) under Heinrich Kiliani.

ADOLF OTTO REINHOLD WINDAUS

1928 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1876-1959



and whose structure and biological function had remained a mystery despite numerous earlier attempts to explain them. Although he received his lecturing qualification in 1903, Windaus did not succeed in explaining the structure of cholesterol until 1932, with the support of his good colleague Heinrich Otto Wieland.

From the beginning, Windaus was convinced that there is a connection between the concentration of cholesterol in the blood and atherosclerosis. In his later work, he participated in the discovery of the hormone histamine, described the structure of the plant cell component ergosterol, and explained the structure and function of Vitamin D, also a steroid, in several brilliant studies. In cooperation with an industrial partner, he clarified the structure of Vitamin B1.

After his years as lecturer in Freiburg, Windaus spent several years in Innsbruck (1913-1915) before receiving the prestigious Otto Wallach chair in Göttingen. In 1928 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research on the structure of steroids and their connection to vitamins.

Windaus was critical of National Socialism and expressed his opinions on the topic quite openly. His illustrious career ended in 1944 with his retirement.



HANS SPEMANN

1935 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1869-1941

Hans Spemann, born on June 27th 1869 in Stuttgart, initially followed in the footsteps of his father, the founder of Das Neue Universum, a wellreceived annual series of books for adolescents. In 1891 he began studying medicine in Heidelberg. After his first medical examination he shifted to natural sciences and continued his studies in Munich, where cell biologist Theodor Boveri, a friend of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, became his doctoral adviser and mentor. Upon completing his dissertation on developmental stages of parasitic worms, Spemann chose to focus on the embryonic development of amphibians as his principal area of research. He began by describing the anatomy of various developmental stages of frogs and then developed new microsurgical

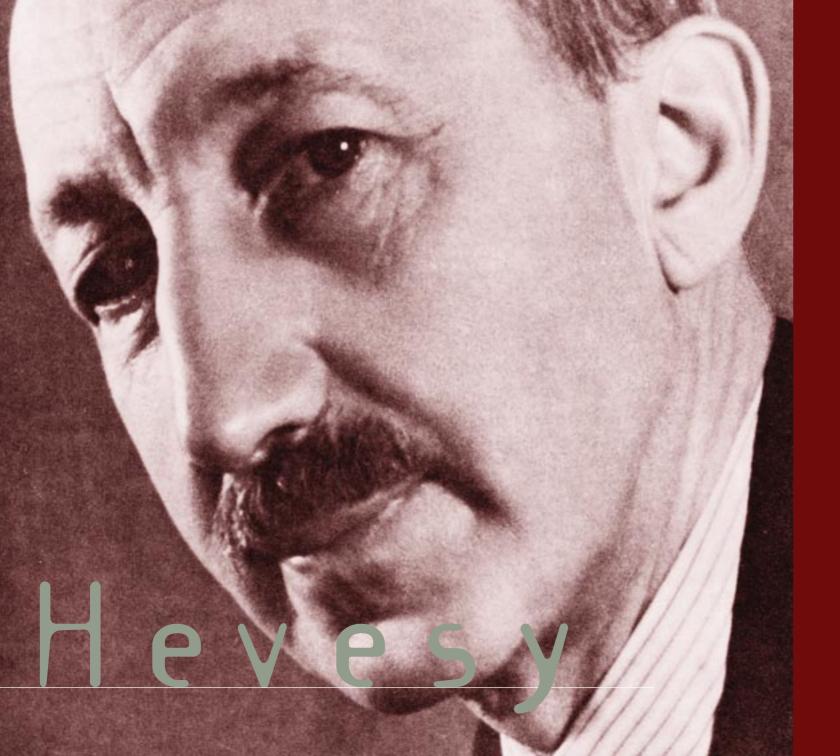
procedures to study the mechanisms of embryonic development in newts (salamanders). His experiments soon yielded the famous "hair loop twins" (1901), two complete - yet smaller - larvae developing in a single egg constricted by a loop of baby hair. This achievement earned Spemann widespread recognition.

In the following years, Spemann accepted professorships in Rostock (1908), Berlin (1914), and Freiburg (1919). In 1921, numerous transplantation experiments performed together with his doctoral student Hilde Mangold (née Pröschold) demonstrated that a small piece of tissue from a certain area of the egg cell, when implanted in the belly region, can "organize" there the formation of a secondary embryonic body!

The discovery of this "organizer effect" earned Spemann the Nobel Prize in 1935. Hilde Mangold, with whom he most likely would have shared the prize, had tragically died in an accident years before.

In later years, Spemann together with Otto Mangold (Hilde's husband) successfully extended this transplantation technique to other regions of the embryo, thereby sparking an international wave of new research in embryonic development. In the decades following his death (1941) Spemann's fame faded somewhat, partly due to the biochemical orientation of those years. Yet since the mid-1970s, the rise of molecular biology has led to an unprecedented renaissance in the reception of his work.

NOBELPRIS BELONA DEN VIKTIGASTE UPPTACKT VARMED DE FYSIOLOGISKA OCH MEDICINSKA VETENSKAPERNA UNDER SENASTE TIDEN RIKTATS, HAR DENNA DAG BESLUTIT ATT TILLERKANNA DET ÅR 1935 UTGÅENDE PRISET ÅT FOR HANS UPPTACKT AV ORGANISATOR EFFEKTEN UNDER DEN EMBRYONALA UTVECKLINGEN. STOCKHOLM DEN 24 OKTOBER 1935. Grammer Holmpen J. Holmeren Gostatorsfell Mylacobacus



GEORG VON HEVESY 1943 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1885-1966

Georg von Hevesy, born in 1885 in Budapest, studied in Budapest, Berlin, and Freiburg, where he received his doctorate in 1908 with a dissertation on a topic in physical chemistry. He then worked in Karlsruhe under Haber and in Manchester under Rutherford, where he was introduced to the newest methods and concepts in nuclear physics and nuclear chemistry. In Vienna, he conducted experiments with Paneth which used radioactive methods to determine the solubility of sparingly soluble salts. After World War I, he worked at Niels Bohr's institute in Copenhagen, where he and Dirk Costner discovered the element hafnium using x-ray fluorescence.

From 1926 to 1934, Hevesy was professor for physical chemistry at the University of Freiburg. In these years, he continued his work on x-ray fluorescence, for example to determine the age of minerals, and began studies on the implementation of radioactive indicators in biochemistry and physiology. Being of Jewish descent, he left Germany in 1934 due to the political developments following the Nazis' seizure of power.

Hevesy remained active until 1961, first in Copenhagen and later in Stockholm. In this later phase of his career, he began focusing more on biochemical, physiological, and medical topics, which he studied with the help of radioactive isotopes.

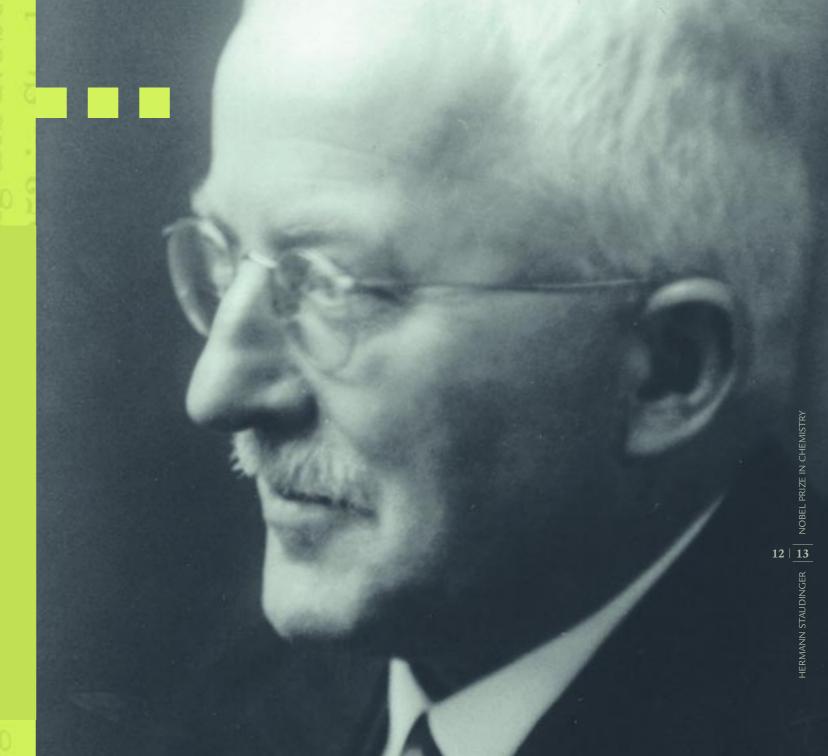
Von Hevesy received numerous scientific awards and honorary degrees, including an honorary doctorate from the University of Freiburg. He conducted pioneering work in the field of x-ray fluorescence and laid the foundations for the use of radioactive isotopes as indicators in biology and medicine. He is regarded as the father of nuclear medicine. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1943 for his development of isotope tracing. Von Hevesy saw himself as a Freiburger: He studied here, was a professor here, and two of his children were born here. One of his daughters lives in Freiburg. He died in Freiburg on July 5th 1966.



Hermann Staudinger, born in Worms in 1881, studied chemistry in Halle, Darmstadt, and Munich, and earned his doctorate from the University of Halle in 1903. After receiving his professorial lecturing qualification at the University of Strasbourg in 1907 he served for a few years as associate professor for organic chemistry at the Technical University of Karlsruhe before accepting a chair in chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (1912–1926). In 1926 he received a professorship at the Albert-Ludwig University in Freiburg, where he remained for the rest of his career. He was director of the chemical laboratory until 1951 and head of the State Research Institute for Macromolecular Chemistry until 1956 – the first research center in Europe to be devoted exclusively to the study of macromolecules in nature and technology as well as the new research field of polymer science. Staudinger himself had founded the institute in 1940.

Hermann Staudinger is the father of macromolecular chemistry. As early as 1920, he discovered that natural fibers, rubber, and plastics are composed of high-molecular compounds (macromolecules, polymers). His ideas concerning the polymer structures of fibers, plastics, and elastomers were revolutionary and instrumental in bringing about a change in the development of polymers: away from purely empirical optimization towards molecular material design. His work in Freiburg on synthetic and biological macromolecules formed the basis for countless modern innovations in materials research and the life sciences and paved the way for the rapid growth in the industrial production of plastics.

Staudinger received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1953 for his pioneering work on macromolecules. On April 19th 1999 the American Chemical Society paid tribute to his laboratory in Freiburg as the birthplace of polymer sciences and named it an international historic landmark of chemistry.



HANS ADOLF KREBS

1953 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1900-1981

Hans Adolf Krebs, the son of a Jewish ear, nose, and throat doctor in Hildesheim, studied medicine in Göttingen, Freiburg, Berlin, and Munich starting in 1918. He earned his doctorate in Hamburg in 1924 and worked from 1926 to 1930 as an assistant to Otto Warburg (a 1931 Nobel laureate) at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology in Berlin.

In 1930 Krebs returned to clinical work, first in Hamburg-Altona and starting in 1931 at the Freiburg University Medical Center as an assistant to Siegfried Thannhauser. In 1932 Krebs received his professorial lecturing qualification.

In 1933 Krebs was dismissed on account of his Jewish descent and went to the University of Cambridge in England on a Rockefeller Fellowship. He spent the further stages of his career at the Universities of Sheffield and Oxford. In 1939 Krebs became a British citizen. In 1958 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. Krebs was one of the few German-Jewish scholars who were able to continue their careers without interruption after their banishment from Nazi Germany. Together with Fritz Albert Lippmann, he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1953. Krebs's research dealt mainly with various aspects of cell metabolism. The citric acid cycle in cell metabolism is also called the Krebs cycle in his honor.

Krebs received honorary degrees from numerous universities, such as Chicago, Paris, Berlin, and Jerusalem. In 1955 he was named honorary doctor of the University of Freiburg Faculty of Medicine.

ONE HALF TO YOU FOR YOUR DISCOVERY OF THE CITRIC CID CYCLE AND THE OTHER HALF TO PROFESSOE FRITZ LIBERT LIPMANN FOR HIS DISCOVERY OF COENZYME A ITS IMPORTANCE FOR THE INTERMEDIARY METABOLISM =





FRIEDRICH AUGUST VON HAYEK

1974 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, 1899-1992

Friedrich August von Hayek, born in Vienna in 1899, was professor of economics at the Albert-Ludwig University from 1962–1968.

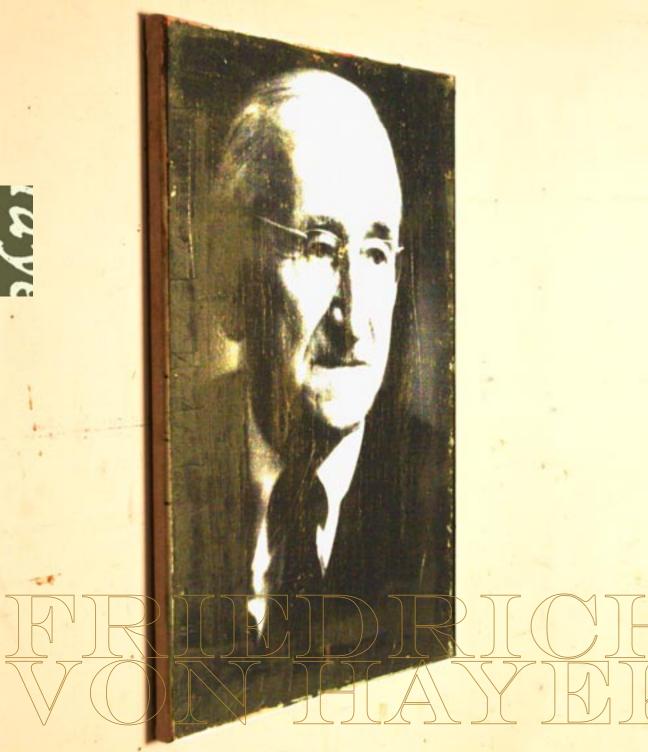
Hayek began his studies at the University of Vienna in 1918, where he earned doctorates in law (1921) and economics (1923). From 1927 on, he served as director of the Austrian Institute for Trade Cycle Research, which he had founded together with Ludwig von Mises. Two years after earning his professorial lecturing qualification (1929) he was appointed as professor at the London School of Economics, where he was seen as the most prominent representative of the Austrian School and opponent of John Maynard Keynes during the 30s and 40s. In 1950 he became professor of social and moral sciences at the University of Chicago, and in 1962 he took a chair in economics at the University of Freiburg, where he also became a member of the board of directors of the Walter Eucken Institute. In 1967 he was given emeritus status, but he continued teaching until 1969.

In 1974, von Hayek received (jointly with Gunnar Myrdal) the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for his work on "the theory of money and economic fluctuations" and his "penetrating analysis of the interdependence of economic, social and institutional phenomena".

After serving, from 1969 to 1977, as an honorary professor at the University of Salzburg, he returned to Freiburg, where he was active until his death in 1992. In 1991 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Hayek was among the most significant liberal thinkers of the 20th century and one of the most influential critics of socialism. He left behind a voluminous legacy of scientific writings which have been translated into numerous languages. His most well-known book is doubtlessly The Road to Serfdom. Although his ideas were long received with skepticism, their relevance has since been confirmed by the downfall of the socialist systems and the modern development of the globalized, liberalized, and deregulated world economy.

ATTOTOTO



GEORG



GEORG WITTIG

1979 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1897-1987

Georg Wittig was born in Berlin and grew up in Kassel. After completing secondary school, he studied chemistry at the universities of Tübingen and Marburg where he was awarded a Ph.D. under K. v. Auwers. In 1926 he qualified as a lecturer and was appointed in 1932. Following a stint at Braunschweig Technische Hochschule, Wittig in 1937 accepted a position as associate professor at Freiburg University. In 1944 he became full professor of chemistry and head of department in Tübingen and in 1956 accepted the same position in Heidelberg.

Wittig`s wide range of interests in theoretical problems and new methods of synthetic chemistry already became apparent in the early years of his scientific career in Marburg and Freiburg. In these years he introduced new reagents and methods in the area of organometallic chemistry, which were to become the basis of his later accomplishments, which included the discovery of dehydrobenzene and two reactions which now bear his name: the Wittig ether rearrangement and the Wittig reaction. The latter reaction, discovered in 1953, has since gained great significance for the production of compounds with double bonds. Today it is used in the production of vitamin A and related compounds for all kinds of food for people and animals.



GEORGES KÖHLER

1984 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1946-1995

Georges J. (Jean) F. (Franz) Köhler, born in Munich, received the Nobel Prize at the young age of 38. He died when he was only 48 years old, at the apex of his scientific career.

Köhler studied biology in Freiburg from 1965 to 1971, earning a diplom degree. In 1974 he completed his doctorate of natural sciences, earning the title of Dr. rer. nat., with a dissertation on immunology. Until 1984 Köhler worked at the Basel Institute of Immunology, founded by Niels Kaj Jerne. Together with Jerne and César Milstein – the three received the Nobel Prize jointly in 1984 – Köhler developed a procedure for producing monoclonal antibodies. Köhler (and Milstein) conducted the decisive experiment in Cambridge in 1975, fusing together white blood cells and tumor cells. The hybrid cells created in this way produced antibodies and divided into genetically identical daughter cells. In the publication presenting their findings in 1974, Köhler and Milstein refereed to the great potential for medical and industrial applications of their discovery. Today, monoclonal antibodies play a vital role in diagnostics and treatment.

From 1984 until his untimely death, Köhler served jointly as director of the Max Planck Institute of Immunology in Freiburg and as professor of the University of Freiburg. The German Society of Immunology has awarded a Georges Köhler Prize each year since 1998.



HARALD ZUR HAUSEN

2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, 1936-

Harald zur Hausen was born in Gelsenkirchen-Buer on March 11th 1936. After his Abitur in 1955 he studied medicine at the universities of Bonn, Hamburg and Düsseldorf. In 1960 zur Hausen received the degree of Dr. med. from the University of Düsseldorf. He worked for five more years in Düsseldorf and then joined the Virus Laboratories of the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. The virology department of the University of Würzburg was the next stop in zur Hausen's academic career, where he finished his Habilitation in 1969. In 1972 zur Hausen became the chairman of the new department of clinical virology in Erlangen and from 1977 to 1983 he was chairman of the department of virology at the university of Freiburg. He joined and reorganized the German Cancer Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg between 1983 and 2003. Today, Harald zur Hausen is Editor in Chief of International Journal of Cancer.

Zur Hausen represents an outstandingly successful pioneer in the field of tumor virology. In 1970 he demonstrated very convincingly the presence of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) DNA in Burkitt lymphoma and nasopharynx carcinoma biopsies. This finding represents one of the early and central milestones in human tumor virology. As only a certain fraction of EBV-infected persons acquire EBV-related tumors, these data opened the way for the understanding of role of human tumor viruses in multistage oncogenesis and to the role of defense mechanisms at the cellular and systemic level.

During his time in Freiburg, zur Hausen studied the regulation of EBV in more detail and, in parallel put a lot of efforts into studies that aimed at the clarification of the role of human papillomaviruses in tumor development. These studies showed a brilliant success in the isolation of the first cervical cancer-linked human papilloma virus type (HPV-16) in 1983. Initial successful attempts to demonstrate papilloma virus DNA in human tumors had been published by zur Hausen's group as early as in 1974.

During his time at the DKFZ, zur Hausen and his group demonstrated that HPV- coded regulatory proteins E6 and E7 are indeed expressed in human tumors and that their expression is necessary for the maintenance of the transformed state, cellular proliferation and for the induction of genomic instability. Epidemiological studies ascertained the importance of papillomavirus infections and their prevention. Finally, zur Hausen's group succeded in the development of a vaccine for the prevention of HPV infection and HPV-associated tumors.

UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG RESEARCH ASSISTANTS/POSTGRADUATES:



HENRIK DAM, 1943 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Carl Peter Henrik Dam (* 21 February 1895 in Copenhagen, Denmark; † 18 April 1976 in Copenhagen) was a Danish physiologist and biochemist. He received the 1943 Nobel Prize in Medicine jointly with Edward Adelbert Doisy for the discovery of vitamin K. He conducted research on the metabolism of steroids under Rudolf Schönheimer at the University of Freiburg Institute of Pathological Anatomy in 1932 and 1933.



PHILIP S. HENCH, 1950 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Philip Showalter Hench (* 28 February 1896 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; † 30 March 1965 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica) was an American physician. From 1928 to 1930, Hench conducted research on arthritic diseases at the University of Freiburg and the University of Munich. He received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1950 together with Edward Calvin Kendall and Tadeus Reichstein for discoveries concerning the hormones of the adrenal cortex, their structure, and their biological effects.



DUDLEY R. HERSCHBACH, 1986 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Dudley Robert Herschbach (* 18 June 1932 in San Jose, California) is an American chemist.

Herschbach was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry together with Yuan T. Lee and John C. Polanyi for his work in the area of the dynamics of chemical processes. Herschbach researched at the University of Freiburg as a Guggenheim Fellow in 1968.



MARIO MOLINA, 1995 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMSITRY

Mario José Molina (* 19 March 1943 in Mexico City) is a Mexican chemist. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 together with the chemist Frank Sherwood Rowland and the meteorologist Paul J. Crutzen for research on the destruction of the ozone layer. He completed postgraduate studies at the University of Freiburg in the years 1966 and 1967.



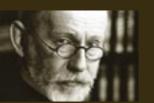
CHRISTIANE NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD, 1995 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (* 20 October 1942 in Heyrothsberge near Magdeburg) is a German biologist.

She received the 1995 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her research on the genetic control of early embryonic development. In 1977 she conducted research at the laboratory of the insect embryologist Prof. Klaus Sander at the University of Freiburg on a fellowship from the German Research Foundation (DFG).

In 1993 she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Freiburg.

UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG STUDENTS:



PAUL EHRLICH, 1908 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Paul Ehrlich (* 14 March 1854 in Strehlen, Breslau Administrative District, Province of Silesia; † 20 August 1915 in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe) was a German doctor and researcher. In 1908 he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with Ilya Mechnikov for contributions to immunology. Ehrlich studied medicine in Breslau, Strasbourg, and Freiburg. During his time as a medical student in Freiburg, he discovered the mast cells, an important part of the immune system.



OTTO FRITZ MEYERHOF, 1922 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Otto Fritz Meyerhof (* 12 April 1884 in Hanover; † 6 October 1951 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) was a German biochemist. He and Archibald Vivian Hill received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1922 for their research on metabolism in the muscle. After completing his schooling in the year 1903, Meyerhof studied medicine and philosophy in Freiburg and Strasbourg until 1906.



OTTO HEINRICH WARBURG, 1931 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Otto Heinrich Warburg (* 8 October 1883 in Freiburg im Breisgau; † 1 August 1970 in Berlin) was a German biochemist, doctor, and physiologist.

In 1931 he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of the nature and mode of action of the respiratory enzyme. A Freiburg native, Warburg studied natural sciences with an emphasis on chemistry at the University of Freiburg upon completing secondary school in 1901, chemistry at the Friedrich Wilhelm University of Berlin starting in 1903, and medicine in Berlin, Munich, and Heidelberg starting in 1905.



OTTO STERN, 1943 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Otto Stern (* 17 February 1888 in Sohrau, Upper Silesia; † 17 August 1969 in Berkeley) was a German physicist who immigrated to the USA in 1933. In 1943 he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in recognition of his contribution to the development of the molecular ray method and his discovery of the magnetic moment of the proton. Upon completing school in Breslau in 1906, he studied mathematics and natural sciences in Freiburg, Munich, and Breslau.



JOHANNES HANS DANIEL JENSEN, 1963 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Johannes Hans Daniel Jensen (* 25 June 1907 in Hamburg; † 11 February 1973 in Heidelberg) was a German physicist. He and Maria Goeppert-Mayer received the 1963 Nobel Prize in Physics for their discoveries concerning nuclear shell structure. Jensen studied physics, mathematics, physical chemistry, and philosophy starting in 1926 at the Universities of Hamburg and Freiburg.



BERT SAKMANN, 1991 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Bert Sakmann (*12 June 1942 in Stuttgart) is a German physician. He and Erwin Neher received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1991 for their discoveries concerning the patch clamp technique.

He studied medicine until 1967 at the Universities of Freiburg, Tübingen, Berlin, Paris, and Munich.



GÜNTER BLOBEL, 1999 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Günter Klaus-Joachim Blobel (* 21 May 1936 in Waltersdorf, Sprottau District, Silesia, † 18 February 2018 in New York City, USA) is an American biochemist of German origin. He received the 1999 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery that proteins have intrinsic signals that govern their transport and localization in the cell. He left for West Germany as an 18-year-old in 1954 and studied medicine in Freiburg, Frankfurt, Munich, and Kiel.



JOACHIM FRANK, 2017 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Joachim Frank (* 12 September 1940 in Weidenau an der Sieg) is a German-American biophysicist. He received the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry together with Jacques Dubochet and Richard Henderson for research on and methodological developments in single-particle analysis using electron microscopy. After completing his intermediate examination at the University of Freiburg (1963), he went on to graduate from LMU Munich with a diplom degree in physics (1967) and earn his doctorate at TU Munich (1970).

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Prof. Dr. Klaus Friedrich (Wittig)

Prof. Dr. Peter Gräber (von Hevesy)

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