The European Students’ Conference (ESC) is one of the largest biomedical conferences worldwide and has been one of the main events at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin for many years. Addressing young scientists, graduate students, post-graduate students, PhD students, post-docs, and everyone interested in biomedical research, the ESC represents an interdisciplinary platform for international scientific exchange between numerous countries, students, clinicians, and professors from different fields of research and various cultures.

General emphasis is put on a high quality scientific and educational programme. This is realized in a series of scientific sessions, educational workshops and lectures that cover most fields of medicine. In addition to general subjects, each team selects a priority topic that becomes the focus of the respective ESC: The theme of this year’s Conference is “Rethinking Medical Research – how do we achieve innovation?”

Founded in 1989 the ESC historically served as a bridge to East-West student relations after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The aim was to create a platform for young researchers from different fields. Over the past quarter-century, the ESC established a way of bringing researchers and medical staff with different interests, but more importantly different countries together.

Reaching out to all corners of the continent and the four corners of the world, the ESC is proud to welcome over 500 presenting and non-presenting participants from over 60 countries every year. Furthermore, we hope to encourage a more interdisciplinary approach to modern sciences, and to give you the opportunity to present your research to the scientific community and an interested audience.

The ESC is patronized by Prof. Dr. Ernst Th. Rietschel, chairman of the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH), the Minister of Education and Research Johanna Wanka and Prof. Dr. med. Detlev Ganten, president of the World Health Summit.

Our global student conference is held annually in autumn at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany. This year it will take place from 17th – 20th of September 2014. We hope you will come to the great city of Berlin and join us!

Keynote Lectures are free to join for all members and associates of the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin!
This year’s lecture series, “Rethinking Medical Research – how do we achieve innovation?” will explore the dichotomy of medical advances by looking at achievements, opportunities, and challenges that researchers and physicians face. With topics ranging from Open Access policies, pharmaceutical innovations, and revolutionary health policies to advances in Global Health – we hope that this year’s keynote speakers will both challenge and inspire you!

John P.A. Ioannidis
This lecture will disillusion your researchers’ heart approaching the question whether any medical-research studies can be trusted. John P.A. Ioannidis is claimed to be one of the most influential and most cited researchers today. Using meta-research as main method he examines, compares and disproves several big claims in medical studies.

He considers himself privileged to have learnt and to continue to learn from interactions with students and young scientists (of all ages) from all over the world and to be constantly reminded that he knows next to nothing. In this Keynote lecture he will talk about the bias in Medicine and research, the role of statistics and the methods to improve the status quo in science.

“Ioannidis may be one of the most influential scientists alive.”

The Atlantic; David H. Freedman

“I think we can improve the respect of the public for researchers by showing how difficult success is.” Ioannidis

Prof. Dr. Barry R. Bloom
is Harvard University’s Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases and Global Health and Population, as well as the Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health. He is also the former dean of the Harvard School of Public Health. He has been extensively involved with the World Health Organization for more than 40 years.

In his lecture he focuses on the need for vaccination research, as well as its potential to reduce health inequalities. Since more than a third of world population is thought to be infected with M. tuberculosis - with high association to income, comorbidity and geographic location - global disparities become easily obvious. Beyond, the lecture deals with the transition from basic research to clinical use, its costs vs its needs.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dirnagl
Maybe you wonder why despite so much basic research so little of it finds its way into clinical benefit for patients? UlrichDirnagl is a professor at Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin and focuses his research on stroke, cerebral blood flow regulation, and brain imaging. In preclinical models and clinical trials he and his collaborators explore mechanisms by which brain ischemia leads to cell death. In this Keynote he introduces the topic of our conference this year: "rethinking medical research” and synopses our lecture series this year. Also, he will approach some of the reasons why only few results from preclinical research are confirmed in clinical trials and eventually benefit patients. Exemplarily, he will talk about the (mis)use of the p-value in biomedical research, explore the true meaning of p<0.05 and what it really means for the interpretation of scientific results.

Prof. Dr. Amit Meller
is the director of the first Israeli Center of Excellence (I-Core) in the area of Biological Physics. The Meller laboratory at the Lokey center for Life Sciences and Engineering focuses on development and applications of new methods for the study of biological system from the single molecule to live cells. Facing a new era of personalized medicine, it’s necessary to keep the costs low in order to make it a routine part of a visit to the doctor's office. Amit Meller and his research team are developing a novel single molecule DNA sequencing technique based on the optical readout of DNA molecule translocations through nanometer scale pores. A main objective of this project is to invent an innovative ultra-fast and cheap DNA sequencing technology. The lecture will give you insights in this novel technique, facing innovativeness and cost limits at the same time.

Prof. Dr. Marianne J. Legato
is an internationally known academic physician, author, and lecturer. She is a pioneer in the new science of gender-specific medicine. She is a Professor Emerita of Clinical Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Legato is the founder and editor of The Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine and of Gender-Medicine and a leading advocate for the inclusion of women in clinical trials. She is annually cited in New York Magazine’s top doctors issues.

In this lecture she will give a brief glimpse of her research interest and career, explaining how the experience of diseases and physiological human function are subject of variation due to gender and biological sex. Her Keynote will provide insights about the reasons you should be extremely careful when making statements based on research conducted on one sex and last but not least enlighten the question why men die first.

"a leader in global health and former consultant to the White House,” Harvard SPH
"The World Health Organization needs major reform to regain its leadership as a convener and provider of scientific and technical knowledge” Bloom

"an American Health Hero “ American Health for Women
"a Heroine of Women’s Health” Ladies Home Journal

"The Future of Medicine Is Now”
Headline of an article treating Meller's technique
The Wall Street Journal

"deficits in the design, conduct, and reporting of preclinical research were found to be prevalent” Dirnagl
Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism (2011) 31