



## Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a good start into the new semester. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued commitment and the impressive research activities across our university.

This issue of the Research Newsletter showcases a selection of recent achievements and projects – a small glimpse into the many inspiring initiatives taking place in our community. While we can only feature a few examples here, I would like to sincerely acknowledge **all** ongoing research efforts and accomplishments, whether or not they are highlighted in this edition. Your work continues to strengthen our university's research profile and impact.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new research information system **Pure** this autumn, which will bring new opportunities for project management, visibility, and collaboration. A big thank you to the Pure implementation team for your dedication and all the hard work that made this launch a success. Without their ideas, commitment, and perseverance, this achievement would not have been possible.

I would like to emphasise that we are interested not only in journal publications, but in **all forms of research activity and output**, including conference presentations, book chapters, research-led teaching, outreach activities, and other scholarly contributions. This comprehensive approach reflects our commitment to recognising the full diversity of research practices and outputs across disciplines.

This also aligns with our ongoing efforts to integrate research reporting with the [COARA \(Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment\)](#) principles, which advocate responsible and holistic research evaluation beyond traditional metrics.

I would like to encourage you to make use of our [Research Intranet](#). There you will find current calls for proposals, training opportunities, and helpful resources to support your research. Our [Research Support Center](#) remains

available to assist you, particularly with third-party funding applications. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need advice or support at any stage.

I hope to see many of you at our **Meet & Greet "Teaching and Research in Focus: Engaging with the Vice Rector" on November 11** (10:00, Freudplatz 1, Festsaal), when Stefan Hampl and I will meet with all interested faculty and staff to discuss recent developments in research and teaching.

Wishing you all a productive and inspiring semester ahead.

Warm regards,

**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Marion Garaus, PhD**  
*Vice Rector for Research*

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## News from the Research Support Center

**Empowering SFU's Research Community: Highlights &**

## Developments



In the academic year 2024/2025, the [Research Support Center](#) (*Zentrale Forschungsstelle - ZFS*) continued to expand and strengthen research expertise across the SFU community. Through a combination of individual consultations and institutional capacity building, we offered tailored support and shared resources to support researchers at every stage of their work.

- Highlights of the past months included the publication of our **research newsletters** in [March 2025](#) and [June 2025](#), featuring funding updates, success stories, and key insights into national and EU programmes.
- Our [FWF Coaching Workshops](#) offered researchers hands-on training in the art of proposal writing and funding strategy development.
- We launched and continue to update our new [Research Intranet](#), a central hub designed to provide the SFU research community with easy access to guidelines, tools, and upcoming opportunities.
- A major step forward was also achieved with the [Expression of Interest Programme for ERC Grants](#), developed in line with the future research vision of the new rectorate. This initiative, launched in summer 2025, aims to attract leading researchers and foster high-profile projects at SFU.

Altogether, these developments reflect our ongoing commitment to empowering the SFU research community with the knowledge, tools, and structures necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive funding landscape.

[Visit our Research Support Center](#)

In line with SFU's vision to strengthen capacity for third-party funding acquisition, the university fully covered the costs of coaching workshops on submitting FWF proposals.

These online workshops took place on 8 May and 23 July 2025. Combining expert input with practical exercises based on real proposals, they guided participants through FWF funding principles, decision-making processes, and application dos and don'ts.

Researchers from all disciplines attended, especially those planning to submit FWF proposals soon. Participant feedback underlined the workshops' value:

*"The workshop was very good and clearly structured. The facilitators guided us comprehensively through the process and addressed questions carefully. The practical parts were very helpful. Even with an unfamiliar proposal, the review criteria were well explained."*

Take advantage of upcoming training opportunities to sharpen your proposal design skills and check out the next available sessions.

**Boost your Proposal Design Skills**

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## From Application to Impact: Meet Pure



**Pure** Sigmund Freud Private University Vienna

We are excited to announce the launch of **Pure**, our new research information management system. Pure brings together all aspects of the research process in one place – from project applications to reporting – making administration easier and research more visible.

Thanks to this new platform, you benefit from faster approvals, fewer emails, automatic data imports for improved accuracy, and effortless creation of CVs and public research profiles. The portal also fosters collaboration and increases the visibility of our university's research worldwide.

To help you get started, faculty-specific Q&A sessions via MS Teams are available, along with a detailed user guide. Get all the resources and support materials you need at our [Research Intranet](#).

Pure is here to streamline your work and showcase your achievements — get started now and help shape our shared research profile!

**We kindly ask for your support in enhancing transparency in reporting research achievements by entering all required data by December 1.**

Accurate and complete research reporting is crucial not only for internal planning and evaluation but also for communicating our achievements to the public.

Please ensure that all relevant information is carefully and completely entered to maintain high data quality. This not only supports the SFU's accreditation and reporting requirements but also enhances the visibility of your research in the public portal.

After the deadline, please continue to add past research outputs to keep your profile and scientific record as comprehensive as possible.

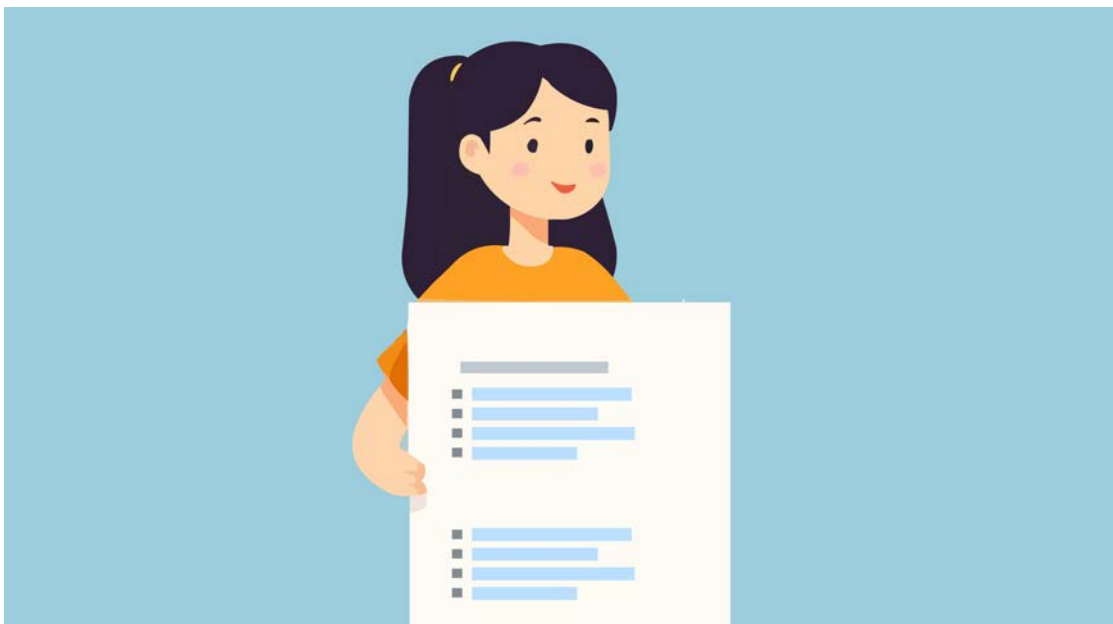
The public portal will **go live in December 2025**.

[Visit the Research Intranet for more Information](#)

[Explore the Pure Manual](#)

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## **New Guidelines for Third-Party Funded Projects**



We are pleased to inform you that the new ***Guidelines on the Acquisition and Conduction of Third-Party Funded Projects*** are now in effect and available in our research information system *Pure*.

The guidelines clearly define responsibilities throughout all phases of a project and aim to increase transparency, improve reporting, and ensure consistent documentation across all research activities.

These measures are designed to:

- streamline project management and approval processes,

- strengthen compliance and accountability, and
- provide better support for researchers in managing administrative requirements.

**Effective immediately, all new projects must go through the approval process in *Pure* before they can begin.**

All relevant information and documents are available on the Research Intranet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [Research Support Center](#).

[View the new Third Party Funding Guidelines](#)

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## Funding Opportunities



### **BiodivConnect - Restoration of Ecosystem Functioning, Integrity, and Connectivity**

EU - FWF (Austrian Science Fund)

The *BiodivConnect* call aims to foster innovative research that can be integrated into nature restoration practices for interconnected, well-functioning ecosystems and habitats, with special emphasis on long-term sustainability and the future-proofing of restoration efforts.

This call focuses on three main topics:

**Topic 1:** Setting restoration targets and measuring success

**Topic 2:** Transferability and scaling of nature restoration efforts

**Topic 3:** Resilience and sustainability of restoration efforts

Proposals may address one or more of these topics. The call covers biodiversity restoration in all types of ecosystems and habitats, across all regions of the world.

Research proposals must demonstrate significant transnational added value. In addition, they are expected to be interdisciplinary, involving – where appropriate – multiple academic disciplines (natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences, humanities and the arts).

**Funding volume:** max. € 450000 for 36 months

**Deadline:** 7 November 2025, 12:00 CET

[Find all Info on the Biodiversa+ FWF Website](#)

[Explore the BiodivConnect Call](#)

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## European Partnership OHAMR - European Partnership One Health Antimicrobial Resistance

EU - FWF (Austrian Science Fund)

The mission of the *European Partnership One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (EUP OHAMR)* is to strengthen One Health research and innovation for improved surveillance of resistant pathogens, better diagnostics, effective treatments, and preventive measures that reduce antimicrobial use and the spread of AMR.

The requirements and specifications for the FWF programmes [Principal Investigator Projects](#) or [Clinical Research](#) apply.

The first call for proposals is scheduled for late 2025.

[Get the Details on the OHAMR FWF Website](#)

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## Mobility programmes

**Erwin Schrödinger Programme (FWF - Austrian Science Fund)**



The *Erwin Schrödinger Programme* is aimed at highly qualified postdocs of all disciplines in the early stages of their research careers.

**Key objectives:**

- Providing the opportunity to work on projects at research institutions abroad, gaining valuable international experience during the postdoc phase and strengthening career prospects
- Opening up new fields of research as well as new approaches, methods, procedures, and techniques
- Contributing to the advancement of research in Austria
- Supporting knowledge transfer back to the Austrian research community
- Variable basic fellowship for principal investigators (rates depend on host country)
- Allowance of €300 per month for career-development measures

**Where applicable:** Principal investigator's salary (based on the current senior postdoc rate) and project-specific costs (flat rate), depending on the duration of the return phase (maximum €15,000)

**Outgoing phase:** 10 to 24 months abroad

**Return phase:** up to 12 months in Austria, depending on the length of the stay abroad

Applications are accepted on a **continuous submission basis**.

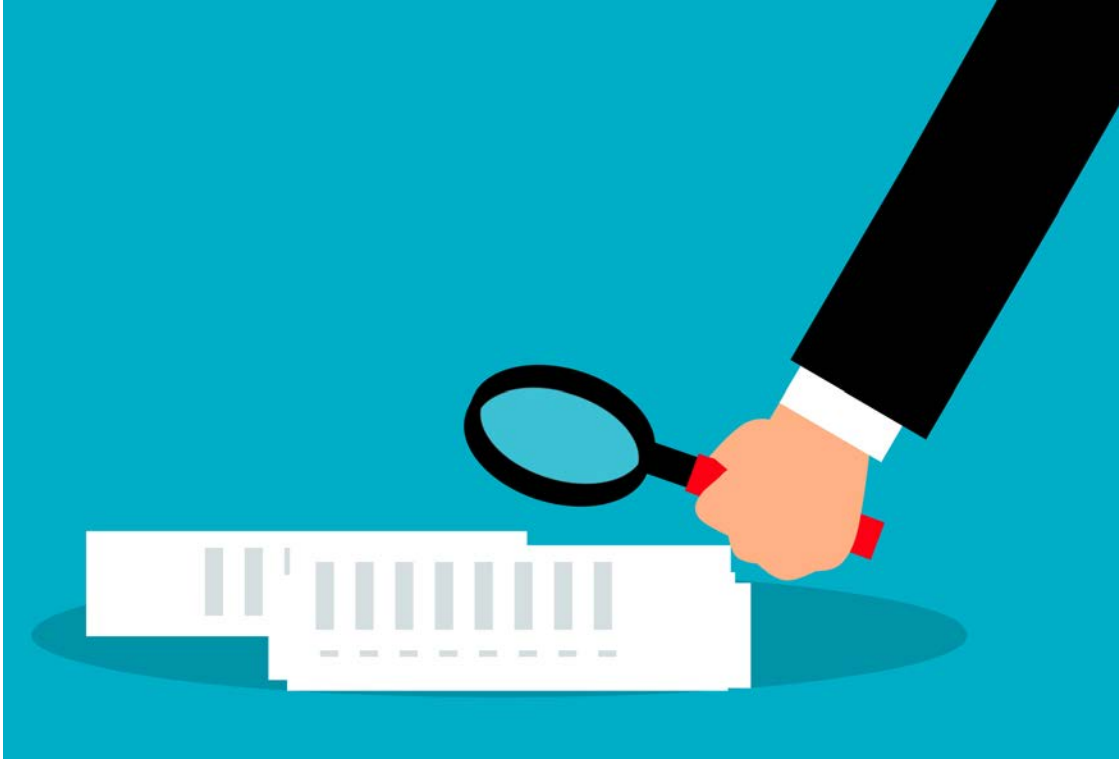
[Check the Erwin Schrödinger Mobility Programme](#)

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**Research News: Spotlight on the  
Faculties**

# Highlights from the Faculty of Psychotherapy Science

## Research Evaluation: Self-Report Submitted to External Reviewers



The Faculty of Psychotherapy Science has taken a pioneering step as the first Faculty at SFU to undergo the newly introduced **internal research evaluation** process, developed and supported by the Department of Quality Management. The process will be implemented across all faculties at three-year intervals and — as a formative evaluation — will complement existing re-accreditation procedures.

As part of this voluntary evaluation, the Vice Deanery for Research has prepared a comprehensive **self-report** outlining the faculty's research structure and infrastructure, strategic research goals, and its research outputs from the evaluation period of the past two academic years.

At the end of August 2025, the self-report was submitted to **three distinguished external reviewers** from the *City University of New York*, *Trinity College Dublin*, and the *Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg*. The reviewers are renowned scholars in the interdisciplinary field of psychotherapy science. Their expertise and insights will help shape and strengthen the faculty's long-term vision and strategic positioning within the evolving landscape of psychotherapy science.

The Faculty of Psychotherapy Science looks forward to receiving the reviews by the end of 2025.

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## Funding Secured for Follow-Up Study on Technological Humanism in the Austrian Healthcare System



Professor Reinhold Popp, Head of the *Institute for Futures Research in Human Sciences*, has successfully secured continued funding for a collaborative research project with *Gefäßforum Österreich*.

Building on the three-year pilot study ***Technological Humanism as a Catalyst for Work Quality and Efficiency in the Austrian Healthcare System*** (2023–2025), the cooperation will now be extended from September 2025 to January 2029 with financial support of € 30,000.

We warmly congratulate the research team and look forward with great interest to the outcomes of this open science initiative!

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**ÖAS Research Award 2025 for Outpatient Clinic Team at the Faculty of Psychotherapy Science**



The research team of the *Psychotherapeutic Outpatient Clinic for Adults* at SFU Vienna has received the 2025 ÖAS (*Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für systemische Therapie und systemische Studien*) Research Award, endowed with €3,000. With this award, the ÖAS supports early-career researchers and promotes the development of systemic theories and their practical implementation.

The winning project, ***Disappointments in Psychotherapy - A systemic Perspective on Disappointments among Psychotherapists in Training under Supervision***, was initiated by motivated students, led by Dr. Birgitta Schiller and Mag.a Stella Becher-Urbaniak and supported by the Clinic Head, Dr. Lisa Winter. The project contributes to quality assurance and fosters a culture of reflection in both training and care.

[Read More in our News Section](#)

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**Latest Research News from the Faculty of Psychology**

**Sprouting Ideas: Seed Funding Highlights 2024-2025**



During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Faculty of Psychology supported one interdisciplinary research cluster and eight internal projects in developing applications for grant-funded research through its seed funding initiative.

As of September 2025, the seed funding provided by the Faculty of Psychology has led to the submission of **eight funding proposals**, **one** of which has already been **approved**. The following projects received seed funding:

### **Sustainability Research Cluster**

The Sustainability Research Cluster at SFU, headed by Prof. Ivo Ponocny, Ass. Prof. Katharina Hametner and Dr. Markus Wrbuschek, brings together cross-faculty activities to address pressing sustainability challenges through innovative, interdisciplinary approaches. For further information, please visit the [Research Cluster Sustainability](#).

### **South Tyrolean Conspiracy Theories: Between Autonomy and Unity**

The project, led by Dr. Markus Brunner and Franziska von Zieglauer, MSc., employs a qualitative research design to investigate conspiracy theories in South Tyrol as forms of problem-solving and social critique. By analysing social practices within “conspiracy scenes” and individual biographies in order to uncover regional and transregional interrelations as well as psychosocial conflicts that arise from the tension between German- and Italian-speaking regions.

### **Alexinomia - If Only I could Say Your Name**

Alexinomia refers to a phenomenon that has received little research attention to date, in which affected individuals are unable to address others by name due to fear or emotional overload, resulting in avoidance behaviour. The project, led by Assoc. Prof. Thomas Ditye, investigates the experience, prevalence, effects, diagnosis and neural basis of alexinomia. For further information, please visit the [Alexinomia project website](#).

### **Transdiagnostic Insights and Novel Interventions in Tourette's Syndrome: Exploring Metacognition and Impulsivity with Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation**

This project, led by Prof. Mattia Ferro investigates Tourette's Syndrome by combining neurostimulation techniques with psychological assessments to

identify stratification factors, target transdiagnostic domains such as metacognition, impulsivity, and inhibitory control, and ultimately develop personalised therapeutic approaches to improve patient outcomes.

### **Longitudinal Trajectories and Network Models of Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms in Adults and Youths Exposed to Natural Disasters**

This project, headed by Barbara Forresi, PhD and Annalisa Oppo, MSc, explores long-term trajectories and symptom interactions of trauma-related disorders following natural disasters. Using meta-analytic and network modeling approaches in adults and youths, the study aims to enhance early intervention strategies.

### **The Psychosocial Load of Getting Better**

The project, led by asst. prof. Dr. Nora Ruck, Dr. Sara Paloni, Charlotta Sippel, MSc. and Univ.-Prof.Dr. Iris Laner (*University Mozarteum Salzburg*) critically examines the “psychosocial load” associated with the pursuit of wellbeing. Employing participatory, arts-based research in collaboration with women’s counseling centers, the project integrates empirical analysis, social impact assessment, and artistic imagination.

### **Strengthening Personal Resources for a Life With Epidermolysis Bullosa. An Intervention Study**

This international mixed-methods study, led by MMag. DDr. Gudrun Salamon, aims to design and validate a resource-strengthening workshop for people with epidermolysis bullosa and their families, while evaluating its impact and developing recommendations for effective psychological support.

### **The Efficacy of a School-Based Universal Prevention Programme for Cognitive Disengagement Syndrome (CDS) difficulties in childhood: a pilot study**

This project led by Prof. Simona Scaini aims to validate an Italian screening scale for Cognitive Disengagement Syndrome in children and test a school-based intervention to improve their emotional, social, and academic well-being.

### **Preparation of Network Application for Theoretical Psychology**

The history and diverse interpretations of theoretical psychology highlight its critical potential for redefining the field. SFU — drawing on its interdisciplinary expertise and alternative perspectives — aims to lead this discourse by fostering reflection, collaboration, and practical impact beyond disciplinary boundaries. Contact: Dr.Dr. Alexander Nicolai Wend.

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## **Innovative Science Communication on the History of Feminist Psychology in Vienna**



The Faculty of Psychology is proud to announce an exciting digital exhibition now featured on the [Psychology's Feminist Voices \(PFV\) platform](#). Curated by Emelie Rack, MSc, asst. prof. Dr. Nora Ruck, and Desiree Salis, the exhibition explores and celebrates the rich yet often overlooked history of feminist psychology in Austria. At its core are a series of oral history interviews with feminist psychologists, psychotherapists, counselors, social workers, and psychiatrists that showcase the voices and experiences of those who played a formative role in developing a feminist psychosocial counterculture in Vienna over the past fifty years. These interviews illuminate not only personal journeys and political commitments but also the broader social and intellectual movements that shaped feminist thought within the Austrian psychological landscape.

The project is also featured in episode #8 of the SFU podcast. Host Cheyenne Scheuch, MA, invited asst. prof. Dr. Nora Ruck to talk about their research project, which aims to raise international awareness of the work of feminist psychologists and psychosocial professionals.

[Discover the Exhibition](#)

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

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**Research Advances from the Faculty of Law**

Markus Kellner  
Martin Oppitz  
Olaf Riss (Hrsg)

# Bankvertragsrecht

3. Auflage

VERLAG  
ÖSTERREICH

## Consumer Credit Law: The Dawn of a New Age

On 12 September 2023, the European Parliament approved the proposal for a new Consumer Credit Directive. The document makes it clear that private law doctrine must confront the social innovations resulting from digitalisation, such as new mechanisms for concluding contracts and the emergence of novel products and market participants.

As part of a research project conducted together with Hon.-Prof. Dr. Wilma Dehn, Prof. Elke Heinrich-Pendl, Dean of the *Faculty of Law*, addressed both the current state of EU-determined consumer credit law and the implications of the new proposal.

The first results have recently been **published in the book *Österreichisches Bankvertragsrecht*** (Austrian Law of Banking Contracts). Further research questions of particular interest concern, for instance, the requirements for creditworthiness assessments conducted with the aid of artificial intelligence, as well as the regulation of so-called short-term, high-cost products.

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## Exploring Academic Freedom under Pressure



The project *Academic Freedom under Pressure* examines the growing political, economic and societal challenges faced by universities and scholars in Europe and beyond. It analyses how these pressures affect institutional autonomy and

the work of individual scholars, as well as the resilience of existing legal safeguards.

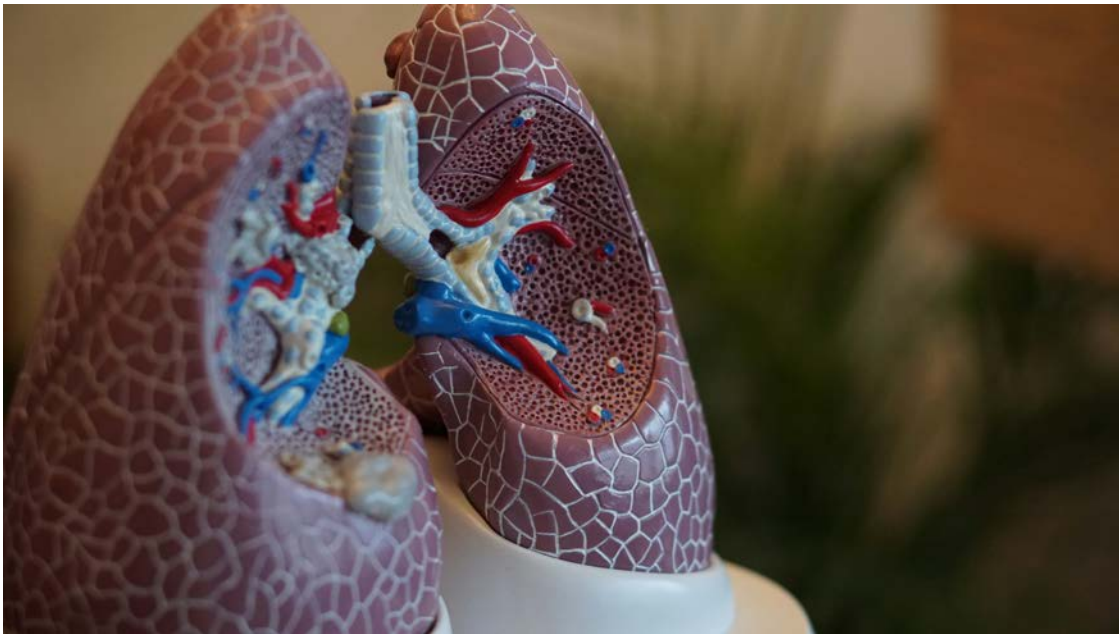
A workshop with scholars from Hungary underscored the urgency of this issue. The discussions laid the foundation for an international workshop and a forthcoming book project currently in preparation. To expand the debate globally, a panel on academic freedom was organised at the [ICON.S World Conference 2025](#) in Brasília, bringing together global and comparative perspectives.

Within this broader framework, the PhD project of Eleonóra Wagenknecht investigates the challenges to academic freedom in Hungary and situates them within the European legal framework.

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## What's New in Research at the Faculty of Medicine

### Increasing Survival Rates for Lung Cancer



With the newly launched *Lung Cancer Early Detection Programme*, the *Ludwig Boltzmann Institute (LBI) for Lung Health*, the *Vienna Health Association*, and the *Faculty of Medicine at Sigmund Freud Private University Vienna* now aim to increase the rate of early-stage lung cancer diagnoses, reduce the need for invasive treatments, and significantly improve long-term survival rates.

[Read the Press Release](#)

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**Designation of Viedoc as the Official EDC System at the Clinical Competence Center**

The **Clinical Competence Center (3C)** has designated **Viedoc** as the electronic data capture (EDC) system of choice for the conduct and management of clinical trials.

*Viedoc* is a cloud-based EDC and clinical trial management system (CTMS) that supports the full lifecycle of clinical studies. It is widely adopted across the life sciences industry — including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device research — for managing clinical data in compliance with international regulatory standards such as *ICH-GCP, 21 CFR Part 11, and EU Annex 11*.

For further information on the use of *Viedoc* software, please submit your request to the Data Manager via the 3C ticketing system.

[About the Clinical Trial Management System Viedoc](#)

[Submit your Request \(3C Ticketing System\)](#)

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## SFU MED Research Promotion Fund - Deadline: 31 October 2025

The *SFU MED Research Promotion Fund* supports **basic medical research** and **selected clinical (“translational”) research** with a clear connection to the *SFU Faculty of Medicine*.

Projects will only be funded if a detailed cost breakdown is submitted with the application, and if any additional costs required to complete the overall project are covered and confirmed in writing by the project leader.

Project applications must be submitted by email to the [SFU MED Research Unit](#).

**Funding Volume:** Each approved project can receive funding of up to €50000.

**Deadline:** 31 October 2025

[View the SFU MED Research Promotion Fund](#)

[Contact the SFU MED Research Unit](#)

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# Third Mission & Outreach

## Share Knowledge, Spark Curiosity: Funding for Science Communication



***Do you want to make new research findings and knowledge accessible to the general public?***

***Do you want to make science and technology more understandable and trustworthy in an innovative way?***

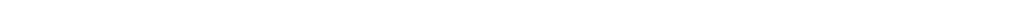
***Is your goal to spark interest in science education and careers?***

Then the *Understanding Science Funding* by the [Vienna Business Agency](#) is perfect for you. The programme provides support in communication activities that aim to present research and scientific results in an clear and easily accessible manner. Funding may cover:

- Payroll costs
- Costs for services, including fees for speakers or knowledge acquisition
- Travel expenses for speakers, moderators, or lecturers
- Purchase of equipment or software licenses
- Acquisition of intellectual property rights

**Deadline: 30 November 2025**

**Explore the Understanding Science Funding**





Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter (an: {EMAIL}) nicht mehr empfangen möchten, können Sie ihn [hier abbestellen](#).

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