Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you with this new issue of the Caroline and hope that you will find the current topics of interest.

In 2021, the coronavirus continues to have a firm grip on our professional and private lives; in my view, we have jointly mastered the challenges in the various domains of Heidelberg University very well, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks!

I would especially like to draw your attention to the last item of the Caroline, the possibility of voluntary testing for employees of the University.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones restful Easter holidays, stay healthy!

Best wishes,

Your

Dr. Holger Schroeter, Kanzler
Respiratory masks in focus

For several months, wearing a protective mask against the coronavirus is mandatory. Only at the personal workplace, the mask can be taken down, if the coronavirus risk assessment allows this. Since January 2021, medical masks must be used instead of the everyday masks. The university supplies all staff with so-called surgical masks. The FFP2 masks often mentioned in the press and by politicians are only recommended in special cases. The Department for Occupational Safety explains the reasons for this and names the protective goals in its flyers and also advises on the correct use.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/universitaet/beschaeftigte/service/sicherheit/index.html

Excellence Strategy Office/Office of the Commission Research and Strategy

Heidelberg University is now in the second funding year as University of Excellence, both Clusters of Excellence are already in their third funding year. In addition, preparations have begun for the next phase of the Excellence Strategy as well as for the collection of ideas for new Clusters of Excellence.

In order to best meet the upcoming challenges the rectorate has reorganized the support structures in the context of the Excellence Competition: February 15, 2021, the Excellence Strategy Office/Office of the Commission for Research and Strategy was established. The office is anchored in the university administration in the Research Division but will fulfill a variety of bridging functions.

The office is closely linked to the rectorate via the Vice-Rector for Research, Prof. Dr. Jörg Pross, who is responsible for the office’s field activities. The Excellence Strategy Office also serves as the office of the Research and Strategy Commission and supports its work in close cooperation with the commission’s spokespersons, Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel and Prof. Dr. Michael Boutros. Furthermore, the staff supports members of the university involved in the Excellence Strategy.

The Excellence Strategy Office headed by Rebekka Weinel succeeds the Department 6.4. Excellence Strategy, which was dissolved with effect from February 15. The portfolio of tasks of the department in the support of the Excellence measures and Clusters of Excellence will be completely taken over by the office.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/institutions/administration/research/d6_exstra.html

Bridging funding for independent junior researchers on the path to professorship within the heiTRACKS program

As of July 1, 2021, Heidelberg University offers the option of bridging funding for independent junior researchers who acquire an ERC Starting Grant or a DFG Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leadership as part of its heiTRACKS program for the promotion of young researchers.

Subject to a positive evaluation, the position of the junior research group leader will continue to be financed until a professorship is attained, but for a maximum of three years. The evaluation takes place at the end of the fourth project year and includes as criteria (1) the successful acquisition of further third-party funding of at least 200,000 euros and (2) subject-specific outstanding and independent publication achievements. This bridging funding option applies to all faculties with the exception of the Mannheim and Heidelberg Medical Faculties.

For advice and active support in the ERC Starting Grant and DFG Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leadership application process as well as for possible bridging funding, the project managers responsible for your field of research in the Heidelberg Research Service of the Research Division will be happy to assist you.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/research/research-service/bridging-funding
Revision of the overhead regulations for economic or business-related activities and contract research

As of January 1, 2021, a uniform overhead rate of 60% is to be applied to all direct costs in the areas of a) contract research with necessary full cost accounting and b) scientific services. The calculation method previously used in contract research, with three different overhead rates defined by subject clusters and calculated exclusively with regard to scientific personnel, is therefore no longer valid. The new uniform overhead rate now takes into account not only the university’s continuously rising operating costs, but also standard room costs. This approach is in line with the requirements of the EU framework for project cost calculations in the area of economic or business-related activities. The overhead rate of 60% is to be charged regardless of the status of the funder (public or private).

In addition, the overhead rate also changes for research conducted in collaboration with private third parties (so-called cooperative research). As of January 1, 2021, an overhead rate of 25% on all project-related direct costs is generally applicable here. The increase also takes into account the increased costs in recent year for the financing of the university infrastructure.

Please note that ongoing projects in the areas of economic or business-related activities that were still calculated according to the old procedure before January 1, 2021 are not affected by the new regulation. No overhead will be charged further on for collaborative research with public third parties.

For further information and support in cost calculation, please contact the Heidelberg Research Service project manager responsible for your field of research in the Research Division. Comprehensive information and sample calculations can be found on the website of the Research Division.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/research/research-service/industry-and-other-funders

Germany Scholarship celebrates 10-year anniversary

More than one thousand talented and committed students could be supported with a “Deutschlandstipendium” since the introduction of this scholarship program at Heidelberg University. Also this winter semester 2021/2022, a total of 144 students were able to enjoy a scholarship. On occasion of the 10-year anniversary, some former and current scholarship recipients were asked how they are doing today or in their studies. Here are their reports.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/friends-supporters/germany-scholarship/10-years-germany-scholarship

University Shop: Call&Collect

The University Shop is also available during corona-times. Due to the ongoing shop closures orders can now be placed by phone at the shop (Call&Collect). The desired products can be pre-ordered and picked up at a fixed date and time in the Augustinergasse. Further details can be found on the website. As soon as the University Shop can re-open, you will find the current opening hours there as well.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/institutions/university-shop
Corona test for staff members

In cooperation with the Center for Molecular Biology of Heidelberg University (ZMBH) the university management offers all employees the opportunity to be tested for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. This involves the use of a gargle test, which was developed at the ZMBH within the framework of a study. The participation of employees in the voluntary and free testing in the framework of this study supports both the measures against the spread of the virus as well as the interruption of possible chains of infection at an early stage. For this purpose, test kits can be ordered by the management of the institutes, centers, central facilities and the central administration and paid via the internal cost allocation system. The tests are then analyzed for SARS-CoV-2 viruses at the test station, which the ZMBH has set up together with the department of virology in the virological diagnostics unit.

Contact:
coronatest@uni-heidelberg.de
Phone: +49 152 57908378

www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/university/coronavirus-test-at-heidelberg-university

Further information that is only available in German

Amendment of the State University Law Baden-Württemberg
- www.landesrecht-bw.de/jportal/portal/page/bsbawueprod.psmml
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/zuv/recht/senat/anderungen_lhg_2021-02-01.pdf

Occupational Safety apart from Corona: Information brochure “Die Buschtrommel”
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/universitaet/beschaeftigte/service/sicherheit/buschtrommel.html

Project eRechung: The go-live and start of the university wide rollout
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/einrichtungen/verwaltung/finanzen/eRechnung.html

Change of responsibility for renumeration contracts and service contracts
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/einrichtungen/zuv/finanzen/beschaffung/pw/honorarvertragswesen.html

Change of responsibility for preliminary review of invoices
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/einrichtungen/verwaltung/finanzen/d4_3.html

New: Guidelines for job advertisements
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/universitaet/beschaeftigte/service/personal/stellenausschreibung/index.html

Reform of booking regulations for flight bookings
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/universitaet/beschaeftigte/service/personal/dienstreisen.html

Change of responsibility for guest lectures
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/universitaet/beschaeftigte/service/personal/gastvortraege.html

Special offers for exercising and sports – heiMOVE

hei_INNOVATION: Measuring ideas for startups
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/transfer/heiinnovation