

**By-laws  
for the Cluster of Excellence  
“Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions  
and Structure of Matter” (PRISMA+)  
at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
from March 28, 2019**

After prior consultation with the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the management of the Helmholtz-Institut Mainz (HIM) and after consulting the Senate on 22 March, the President of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz approved the following regulations in the form of an urgent decision according to § 79 subsection 6 and pursuant to § 12 subsection 2 sentence 3 in conjunction with § 76 subsection 2 no. 12 and 14 of the legislation governing higher education in the State of Rhineland-Palatinate of 19 November 2010 (*Hochschulgesetz*, HochSchG; GVBl. p.463), last amended by section 21 of the Act of 19 December 2018 (GVBl. P. 448), BS 223-41.

## **§ 1 Legal status**

The Cluster of Excellence “Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions and Structure of Matter” (referred to in the following as: PRISMA+) is a scientific research facility at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). Due to its importance, it is directly linked to the University Management. Its Management reports to the University Management on the progress of the project and the use of resources every three months. The deans of the faculties involved are to be consulted during these discussions.

## **§ 2 Purpose of the Cluster of Excellence**

- (1) The Cluster of Excellence PRISMA+ focuses on fundamental questions concerning the nature of basic building blocks of matter and their importance for the physics of the universe. PRISMA+ brings together renowned research groups working primarily in the areas of high-energy, hadron and astro-particle physics, nuclear chemistry, nuclear physics and precision physics with ultracold neutrons and ion traps. One of the main initiatives of the cluster is the execution of several key experiments to study the fundamental forces at the boundaries of the Standard Model.
- (2) To implement its research goals, PRISMA+ supports the establishment of new professorships with its funds. The PRISMA+ research fund enables the internal and competitive allocation of research funds. To promote women in science, PRISMA+ will increase existing support measures for gender diversity.

## **§ 3 Structure of the Cluster of Excellence**

- (1) PRISMA+ is divided
  1. into five research areas (sections):
    - a. Research area A - Exploring the intensity frontier at MESA
    - b. Research area B - Precision physics at the low-energy frontier

- c. Research area C - Exploring the weakly interacting universe
- d. Research area D - Physics at high-energy accelerators
- e. Research area E - Theory and phenomenology of fundamental interactions

and pursues

2. three structural measures

- a. Construction and operation of a superconducting energy-recovering accelerator (MESA);
- b. Operation of the "Mainz Institute for Theoretical Physics" (MITP) and
- c. Operation of a central detector lab.

as well as two cross-sectional tasks

- a. Mainz Physics Academy (MPA) for the support of young researchers
- b. Irène Joliot-Curie-Programme (IJCP) for the equality between male and female researchers

- (2) Each research area is led by one section leader and a deputy section leader, and each structural measure is led by a director and a deputy director, who are responsible for the coordination of the respective research area or structural measure and for the distribution of funds allocated to projects within their research field or structural measure.
- (3) The units pursuing these structural measures establish by-laws. These by-laws require the approval of the PRISMA<sup>+</sup> Steering Committee.

#### **§ 4 Bodies**

The PRISMA<sup>+</sup> bodies are

- a. the General Assembly according to § 7
- b. the Steering Committee according to § 8
- c. the Management according to § 9
- d. the Scientific Advisory Committee according to § 10

#### **§ 5 Membership**

- (1) A person who can demonstrate the ability to carry out independent scientific work (usually after graduation) in at least one of the research areas relevant to PRISMA<sup>+</sup> can be appointed a member of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>. Membership usually requires an affiliation with JGU and/or with HIM, but in justified cases, exceptions are permitted.
- (2) Members of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> are the founding members (members of the previous cluster PRISMA at the end of its funding period) and the permanently or temporarily appointed university lecturers supported through PRISMA<sup>+</sup> funds.
- (3) Additional members can be affiliated with the cluster by request. The Steering Committee decides on the admission to and the exclusion from PRISMA<sup>+</sup> in accordance with § 8 subsection 2c.

- (4) Membership in PRISMA<sup>+</sup> ends either
  - a. by written notice to the Steering Committee,
  - b. by termination of employment at JGU or HIM, or
  - c. through the loss of the membership in accordance with subsection 3 of these regulations.

## **§ 6 Rights and Obligations of Members**

- (1) Members can submit proposals for activities to be carried out within or supported by PRISMA<sup>+</sup> to the Steering Committee. In doing so, the members participate in shaping the scientific program.
- (2) Members are entitled to use the infrastructures and existing resources of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>. The specific use occurs in agreement with the management and the responsible faculty's dean. Members may agree upon principles of use in advance. Members benefit from the resources available to PRISMA<sup>+</sup> according to § § 3 subsection 2 and 8 subsection 3 of these regulations.
- (3) The responsible faculty must agree if their infrastructure or resources are to be used for PRISMA<sup>+</sup> purposes. This relates in particular to available positions within the respective faculty.
- (4) Members are obligated to support the goals (§2) and tasks of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> and to actively participate in the management of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> in accordance with these regulations.
- (5) Members are obligated to report regularly to the Steering Committee. In addition, members of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> are expected to participate in required application processes. Following resignation or discharge, a former member must submit a final report on the scientific activities supported through and carried out within PRISMA<sup>+</sup> to the Management within six months.
- (6) Members are obligated to adhere to the DFG guidelines for the use of Excellence facilities, and, in particular, to the regulations regarding publications, economic exploitation, reporting obligations, and good scientific practice.
- (7) A member who resigns from PRISMA<sup>+</sup> when changing employment can, with agreement from the Management, continue to use their allocated funds from the PRISMA<sup>+</sup> budget in phase-out funding, usually for a period of up to six months. Equipment and other material resources remain with PRISMA<sup>+</sup>. Other arrangements require the approval of the JGU Chancellor.

## **§ 7 General Assembly**

- (1) The General Assembly elects two coordinators from the group of permanent JGU university professors, who are also members of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>. The election is secret and by majority vote of the present members. The term of office is three years. The coordinators may be reelected. The General Assembly can dismiss a coordinator with a two-thirds majority vote.
- (2) The coordinators chair and conduct the General Assembly meetings.

- (3) The General Assembly is usually held twice a year. The members are summoned by written invitation, sent by the Management at least 14 days ahead of the meeting; the agenda is sent to all members no later than six working days ahead of the meeting.
- (4) A General Assembly must take place within four weeks when a request for general assembly is submitted by at least one-fourth of the members of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>. The request must include a proposal for an agenda.
- (5) The General Assembly is responsible for the following tasks:
  - a. Election and deselection of a section leader and of a permanent deputy for all research fields listed under § 3 subsection 1 no. 1. The section leaders and their deputies are elected on the proposal of the respective research field according to § 3 subsection 1 no. 1 (sections); they have the sole power of representation for their respective sections. For research field B, one of the two elected persons should work in the field of physics with ultracold neutrons.
  - b. Election and deselection of the directors and their deputies for the structural measures listed under § 3 subsection 1 no. 2.
  - c. Election and deselection of the director of the Mainz Physics Academy from among the members according to § 5.
  - d. Election and deselection of a representative for the Irène Joliot-Curie-Program (IJCP) and
  - e. Acceptance of the coordinators' report according to § 9, subsection 2 c.
- (6) Elections and deselections according to subsection 5 are to be carried out by secret voting. Elections require a simple majority of votes from the present members. The term of office is three years. Re-elections are possible. A two-thirds majority of present members is required for a deselection.

## **§ 8 Steering Committee**

- (1) The Steering Committee consists of:
  - a. the two coordinators as chairpersons
  - b. the section leaders and their permanent deputies according to § 7, subsection 5a, as well as the directors and their deputies according to § 7 subsection 5b. Entitled to vote are the section leaders and the directors. The deputies are part of the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity. In the absence of a member entitled to vote in accordance with subsection 1b, the right to vote will pass to the deputy.
  - c. the director of the Mainz Physics Academy (MPA), as well as the representative of the Irène-Joliot-Curie-Program (IJCP).

The following persons have an advisory role:

- a. the administrative general manager according to § 9 subsection 3
- b. the Vice-President for Research and Early-Career Academics
- c. the deans of Faculty 08 (Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science) and 09 (Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Geography, and Geosciences),

- d. the operations manager of the TRIGA research reactor
- e. a representative of HIM and
- f. the speakers of the Collaborative Research Centers (*Sonderforschungsbereiche*; SFB) and of the Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*, GRK) in the fields relevant to PRISMA<sup>+</sup> pursuant to the decision of the Steering Committee.

Accumulation is possible.

The Steering Committee is responsible for all PRISMA<sup>+</sup> tasks unless stated otherwise in these regulations. In particular, it bears responsibility for the following tasks:

- a. Developing and shaping the scientific program,
  - b. Preparation of progress reports and overall funding requests for PRISMA<sup>+</sup> to the DFG,
  - c. Decisions on the admission and exclusion of members,
  - d. Decisions on the basic allocation of funds. The Management has the final say according to § 9 subsection 2b.
  - e. Development of proposals for PRISMA<sup>+</sup> members in appointment committees (§ 12);
  - f. Decisions on the admission and termination of research projects;
  - g. Planning of and quality assurance for measures relating to
    - promotion of young research talents
    - equality,
    - collaboration with users,
    - public relations, and
  - h. Acceptance of the coordinators' report according to § 9 subsection 2c.
- (3) Members of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> may receive funds from the central PRISMA<sup>+</sup> research fund following a written request. The Steering Committee decides on the allocation of funds based on the scientific quality of the proposal, the expertise of the applicants, and the significance for the cluster's scientific program. The Steering Committee can decide to consult external reviewers.
- (4) The Steering Committee adopts its own by-laws.
- (5) The Steering Committee meets at least six times per year.

## **§ 9 Management**

- (1) PRISMA<sup>+</sup> is led by the coordinators and the administrative general manager (together referred to as Management). The Management represents PRISMA<sup>+</sup> in dealings with the University Management. The members of the management elect one of the two coordinators as PRISMA<sup>+</sup> spokesperson, who has the power of external representation.

In particular, the management is responsible for the organizational management of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>'s tasks. The Management adopts its own by-laws.

- (2) The coordinators will be chairpersons of the Steering Committee pursuant to § 8 subsection 1a, and of the General Assembly pursuant to § 7 subsection 2 of these regulations.

Their tasks include in particular:

- a. The scientific management PRISMA<sup>+</sup>,
  - b. The responsibility for and the decisions on the allocation of funds and compliance with the overall budget in agreement with the administrative management,
  - c. Regular reports to the University Management, the Steering Committee and the General Assembly.
- (3) The administrative Management is to be appointed by the University Management following a proposal from the coordinators.

In particular, the administrative Management shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- a. Preparation of meetings (General Assembly and Steering Committee as well as conferences, workshops, etc.),
  - b. Personnel and financial matters
  - c. Annual financial management report
- (4) In urgent cases where the Steering Committee cannot make a decision in time, the Management will take the measures it deems necessary. In these cases, the Steering Committee must be informed immediately and can repeal the measures; resulting third-party rights remain unaffected.

## **§ 10 Scientific Advisory Board**

- (1) University Management appoints a Scientific Advisory Board in consultation with the Steering Committee. The Scientific Advisory Board has up to ten members. Members of the Advisory Board can only be persons with international recognition in the PRISMA<sup>+</sup> research fields, either from Germany or abroad. They must not be members of one of the participating institutions (JGU and HIM).
- (2) The Scientific Advisory Board has the following duties:
  - a. Providing recommendations and opinions on issues of scientific and structural development
  - b. Participation in the internal evaluation of PRISMA<sup>+</sup>
  - c. Advising on major investments
  - d. Recommendations concerning important human resources decisions
- (3) The Scientific Advisory Board elects a chairperson as well as a deputy chairperson from among its members. Scientific Advisory Board meetings should be held at least once a year.
- (4) The Scientific Advisory Board adopts its own by-laws.
- (5) The members of the Advisory Board are appointed for the duration of three years of one funding period. Re-appointments are possible.

## **§ 11 Resolutions, Elections, Protocols**

- (1) The bodies of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> have a quorum if more than half of the members with voting power are present at a meeting and if the meeting has been called according to the regulations. If there is no quorum in a meeting, a quorum will be reached independently of the number of participants at the following meeting, as long as this provision is explicitly pointed out in the invitation.
- (2) Decisions are made according to the majority of the members present. Abstentions are not counted when determining the majority.
- (3) Resolutions by circulation procedure are permitted, in accordance with the university's constitution.
- (4) Protocols are written for all meetings of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> bodies and are made available to the members of the respective bodies, the deans of the involved faculties and the University Management within 4 weeks after the meeting, along with an invitation to the following meeting.

## **§ 12 Appointments**

- (1) For appointments that are relevant for PRISMA<sup>+</sup>, the cluster forwards proposals for members of the search committee (recruited from the current group of lecturers) to the dean of the relevant faculty. Within PRISMA<sup>+</sup>, the right to make recommendations lies with the Steering Committee.
- (2) If positions central to the scientific or structural goals of PRISMA<sup>+</sup> are concerned, then coordinators should be consulted by the relevant faculty council in appointments or tenure negotiations, and in procedures to make permanent professor positions that initially have been filled on a temporary basis.

## **§ 13 Inventions and Rights of Use**

For inventions and rights of use, the relevant legal rules apply.

## **§ 14 Publications**

- (1) The results PRISMA<sup>+</sup> members obtain in their scientific research should be published in an appropriate form. The rules of good scientific practice apply.
- (2) The acknowledgements section for all publications must contain phrases referring to JGU, PRISMA<sup>+</sup>, and the funding through the Excellence Initiative (project-ID 390831469).

## **§ 15 Final Clause and Entry into Force**

- (1) Additions or modifications to these regulations must be coordinated with the DFG and require a resolution of the university's Senate. Changes must be brought to the attention of HIM promptly.
- (2) These by-laws become effective on 29 March 2019. Simultaneously, the by-laws for the excellence cluster "Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions and Structure of Matter" dated 8 November 2013 cease to apply.  
Any extension requires a new resolution by the JGU Senate.

Mainz, 28 March 2019

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Professor Dr. Georg Krausch  
President of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz