

## IRTG Technical Workshop:

### Focus: Animal research - Tools and paradigms for probing cognition across species

#### Organisers:

Anne Albrecht (A07)  
Frank Angenstein (B07)  
Markus Fendt (A01)  
Kristine Krug (C05)  
Janelle Pakan (B06)  
Volker Reisner (B03)

**Dates:** Tuesday 24.02.2026 and Wednesday 25.02.2026

**Room:** IBIO R203

#### Workshop description:

This two-day workshop will explore a variety of tools and paradigms used to probe cognition across different species. From classic cognitive tests in rodents to awake-behaving experiments in primates and the use of virtual reality tools in both mice and men. Lectures will be followed up by hands-on demonstrations and practical experience in the lab as well as group discussions. A particular emphasis will be placed on tips and tricks for effective behavioral training as well as experimental designs suitable to probe various aspects of cognition. The ultimate goal is not only to develop techniques useful in your own research, but also to gain an understanding and appreciation of cross-species considerations.

### Schedule Day 1 - 24.02.2026

- 9:00-9:15**    **Welcome:**    Introduction and workshop goals (Anne Albrecht)
- 9:15-10:00**    **Lecture:**    Kristine Krug  
Investigating primate cognition and behavior
- 10:00-10:50**    **Lecture:**    Anne Albrecht & Markus Fendt  
Behavioral paradigms for probing cognition in rodents
- 10:50-11:00**    **Coffee break**
- 11:00-12:30**    **Practical**    Anne Albrecht & Markus Fendt  
Part 1: Cognitive tests with rodents
- 12:30-13:30**    **Lunch**
- 13:30-15:00**    **Practical**    Anne Albrecht & Markus Fendt  
Part 2: Cognitive tests with rodents
- 15:00-15:10**    **Coffee break**
- 15:10-16:00**    **Lecture:**    Frank Angenstein  
*Do we really need animal research to understand fMRI experiments?*
- 16:10-17:00**    **Lecture:**    Janelle Pakan & Volker Reisner  
Virtual reality paradigms for spatial cognition in mice and men

### Schedule Day 2 - 25.02.2026

- 9:00-10:20**    **Practical:**    Janelle Pakan & Volker Reisner  
Part 1: Virtual reality demonstrations in humans & mice
- 10:20-10:30**    **Coffee break**
- 10:30-12:00**    **Practical:**    Janelle Pakan & Volker Reisner  
Part 2: Virtual reality demonstrations in humans & mice
- 12:00-13:00**    **Lunch**
- 13:00-14:30**    **Practical:**    Frank Angenstein  
Group 1+2: MRI & electrophysiological techniques in rodents
- 14:30-16:00**    **Discussion**  
**Coffee break:** All PI's  
Group 1+2: Coffee and cross-species discussion