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Press release
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New Med Uni Graz rectorate team sets the tone for the future
A portrait of Rector Andrea Kurz and her team

Graz, 14 February 2024: Tomorrow Andrea Kurz will assume the leadership of the Medical University of Graz as its first female rector. With her dedicated rectorate team, the respected scientist will head an institution that has achieved impressive milestones and success and whose future largely lies in teaching, research and excellence in clinical care. The challenges and opportunities facing the university are reflected in its strategic orientation, which has been shaped by the different areas of responsibility of vice rectors Alexander Rosenkranz, Christian Enzinger, Manuela Groß and Erwin Petek. The rectorate term begins on 15 February 2024 and ends on 14 February 2028.

The vision: A pioneering role in medical education and research

As the new rector of the Medical University of Graz, Andrea Kurz has extensive expertise and many years of management experience to draw upon as she leads the university toward a successful future. Along with her highly qualified rectorate team, she faces the task of continuing to consolidate and expand Med Uni Graz as an internationally acclaimed center for research, teaching and cutting-edge medicine. The vice rectors' areas of responsibility reflect the diverse challenges that the university will confront in the coming years.

The promotion of innovation and sustainability in clinical practice, the further establishment of Med Uni Graz as a leading research institution that responds to national and global developments, the safeguarding of financial stability and organization of a future-oriented and high-quality education will be key topics in the next four years. In her role as rector, Andrea Kurz will steer the overall direction of the university so it not only overcomes current challenges but also takes on a pioneering role in medical education and research in the long term. "The well-being of our patients and society must always be at the forefront of all these efforts. Our employees and their development and welfare are also the focus of future plans. That's because it's our employees who will lead the Medical University of Graz to future heights and success," stresses Andrea Kurz.

Focus on internationalization in research

As Vice Rector of Research and International Affairs, Christian Enzinger has taken on the responsibility for positioning the Medical University of Graz to exploit its existing strengths. His particular emphasis is on an excellent research culture, teamwork and values such as respect, interdisciplinarity and pioneering spirit. "The appreciative culture at Med Uni Graz will permeate

Pioneering Minds - Research and Education for Patients' Health and Well-Being

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all levels of research, from basic to clinical. This environment provides the ideal breeding ground for pioneering scientific work," says Christian Enzinger about his new job. His goal is to strengthen the potential of research, close gaps and further promote internationalization, for example by increasing involvement in international consortia to help shape global research initiatives.

Great enthusiasm for teaching and learning and cutting-edge degree programs

Erwin Petek, Vice Rector of Studies and Teaching, is active on behalf of future-oriented, high-quality education. His strategy includes a far-reaching reorganization of the area of student administration that increases efficiency and creates a single point of contact for teaching staff and students. He finds the organization of all phases of studying and the further development of teaching as particularly important. "My aim is a vibrant, inspiring learning environment in which students and teachers alike can find their place and continue to develop," explains Erwin Petek about the plans in his area. He would like to respond to current developments in medicine by setting up a "Curriculum Development" task force that guarantees cutting-edge degree programs at all times.

Promoting interdisciplinary teamwork for patient well-being

The appointment of Alexander Rosenkranz as Vice Rector of Clinical Affairs, Innovation and Sustainability shifts the focus to the clinical area of Med Uni Graz. The new vice rector's vision is to improve health care through continuous innovation and to organize clinical practices and research approaches in a sustainable manner. His strategy concentrates on promoting innovation in patient care, medical technology and health information technology. "Close cooperation with KAGes will be one of the main goals in order to make University Hospital Graz fit for the future in light of the rapid transformation of our healthcare system. The promotion of 'physician scientists' as well as the modernization of education, the safeguarding of medical care and the quick implementation of studies and research findings into clinical practice will take us to the next level," says Alexander Rosenkranz about his plans. Special attention will be paid to the topic of sustainability in cooperation with the other vice rectorates.

Using the budget efficiently and pooling synergies

Vice Rector of Financial Management, Legal Affairs and Digitalization Manuela Groß ensures the financial stability of the university. The main focus of her work includes the further optimization of service and process workflows, the financial safeguarding of operations and active shaping of the digital transformation. In times of rapid and fundamental changes, she will play a key role in shaping Med Uni Graz. "The pooling of synergies, the increased use of innovative information technologies as well as the efficient use of available budgetary resources will help us succeed in meeting future challenges," says Manuela Groß about her field of activity. Sustainable exploitation of additional sources of funding is another rectorate goal set by the new vice rector.

Experience and innovative power as the basis for major projects

With this strong Rectorate team, the Medical University of Graz presents itself as a pioneer in medical education and research. Together Rector Andrea Kurz and her vice rectors will position the university as a top-notch institution and actively contribute to improvements in health care. Michael Heinisch, chair of the Medical University of Graz University Council, also sees this guaranteed by the new rectorate team. "The rectorate around Rector Andrea Kurz is characterized by an excellent mix of experience and innovative strength. This will make it possible to

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successfully master the major management tasks of the Medical University of Graz while keeping an eye on employees and patients," says Michael Heinisch.

The Rectorate team at a glance

Andrea Kurz, Rector - Andrea Kurz is a specialist in anesthesiology and intensive care medicine who was Vice-Chair of Research in the Anesthesiology Institute at the renowned Cleveland Clinic before joining Med Uni Graz.

Christian Enzinger, Vice Rector of Research and International Affairs - Christian Enzinger is a professor of neurology and head of the Department of Neurology at Med Uni Graz.

Manuela Groß, Vice Rector of Financial Management, Legal Affairs and Digitalization - Manuela Groß was Executive Vice President for Finances and IT at the Medical University of Innsbruck before joining Med Uni Graz.

Erwin Petek, Vice Rector of Studies and Teaching - Erwin Petek functions as the Deputy Head of the Diagnostic and Research Institute of Human Genetics and the Dean of Study Affairs at Med Uni Graz.

Alexander Rosenkranz, Vice Rector of Clinical Affairs, Innovation and Sustainability - Alexander Rosenkranz is professor of Internal Medicine with a focus on nephrology at Med Uni Graz, head of the Department of Internal Medicine and head of the Division of Nephrology.