10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

MDT

Chris OOSTENBRINK

Finishing year PhD: 2004

MolTag SAB since: 2013

Institution: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Main research area: Molecular simulations to study the structure and dynamics of biomolecules. Thermodynamic characterization of molecular interactions

Number of (in general) supervised PhD students: 16 graduated + **8** ongoing

MolTag SAB page:
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How do you experience the development of the students during their time in MolTag?

The MolTag students form a very diverse community. It is already great to see their own individual scientific development. More importantly, **over the years, one can see how they learn from each other, do joint research projects that go over the boundaries of their research groups and their institutions**, and develop an amazing breadth in their scientific education.

How important is the interdisciplinary training approach for the further career path?

The interdisciplinary training of the MolTag students will certainly be a great asset for their future careers. Through MolTag, **they will already have established a small network of interdisciplinary colleagues**, that will likely remain with them throughout their careers.

Did you keep in touch with former MolTag students?

One always continues to meet people at meetings or events. We have one active collaboration that continues during the post-doc time of a former MolTag student.

What is the most important advice you want to give to current MolTag students?

Use the amazing opportunities that MolTag offers. Even if it sometimes feels as if these activities take too much time from your direct PhD project, **what you can learn through MolTag will prove more relevant than the additional experiment you can do on your own. Take the possibility to go abroad and visit other labs**; these are experiences that you won't easily make after finishing the PhD. Enjoy this time!

BOKU