

Scientific Advisory Board

Marcel VAN DER HEYDEN



Finishing year PhD: 1995

MolTag SAB since: 2019

Institution: University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands

Main research area: Cardiac physiology, Potassium ion channels, Cardiac arrhythmia, Ion channel trafficking, Scientific integrity

Number of (in general) supervised PhD students: 12

MolTag SAB page:

[Marcel AG van der Heyden \(univie.ac.at\)](#)

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Social network:

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

Students in general are developing very fast. This certainly applies to all the MolTag students I had the pleasure to meet during my long term stays in Vienna, but also from the MolTag students that performed their international traineeship in my lab. **They mature, not only in their practical skills, but also in their knowledge on the academic system and its connection to society.** I am happy to see that when finalizing and defending their PhD thesis, these MolTag students have become mature scientist.

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

The big breakthroughs in science nowadays rely strongly on interdisciplinary approaches. The different fields in research use such sophisticated and detailed approaches, that we cannot expect that a single scientist manages all techniques. However, the **MolTag students need to be aware of the tools and techniques in other fields**, so that they can make use of these for their particular research questions. It is beyond doubt, that such training approaches and personal contacts made therein lay the foundations for a future career in academia or beyond.

Did you keep in touch with former MolTag students?

Some of the MolTag students performed internships in my lab and became good friends that I still regular visit when in Vienna, or when they are around in the Netherlands.

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

Science is an international endeavour, try to go abroad and widen your horizons. My final advice, **collaborate as much as possible, and most above all enjoy this wonderful time** of research and performance of experiments.

