

Networking the Austrian PerMed Community: The Austrian Platform for Personalized Medicine

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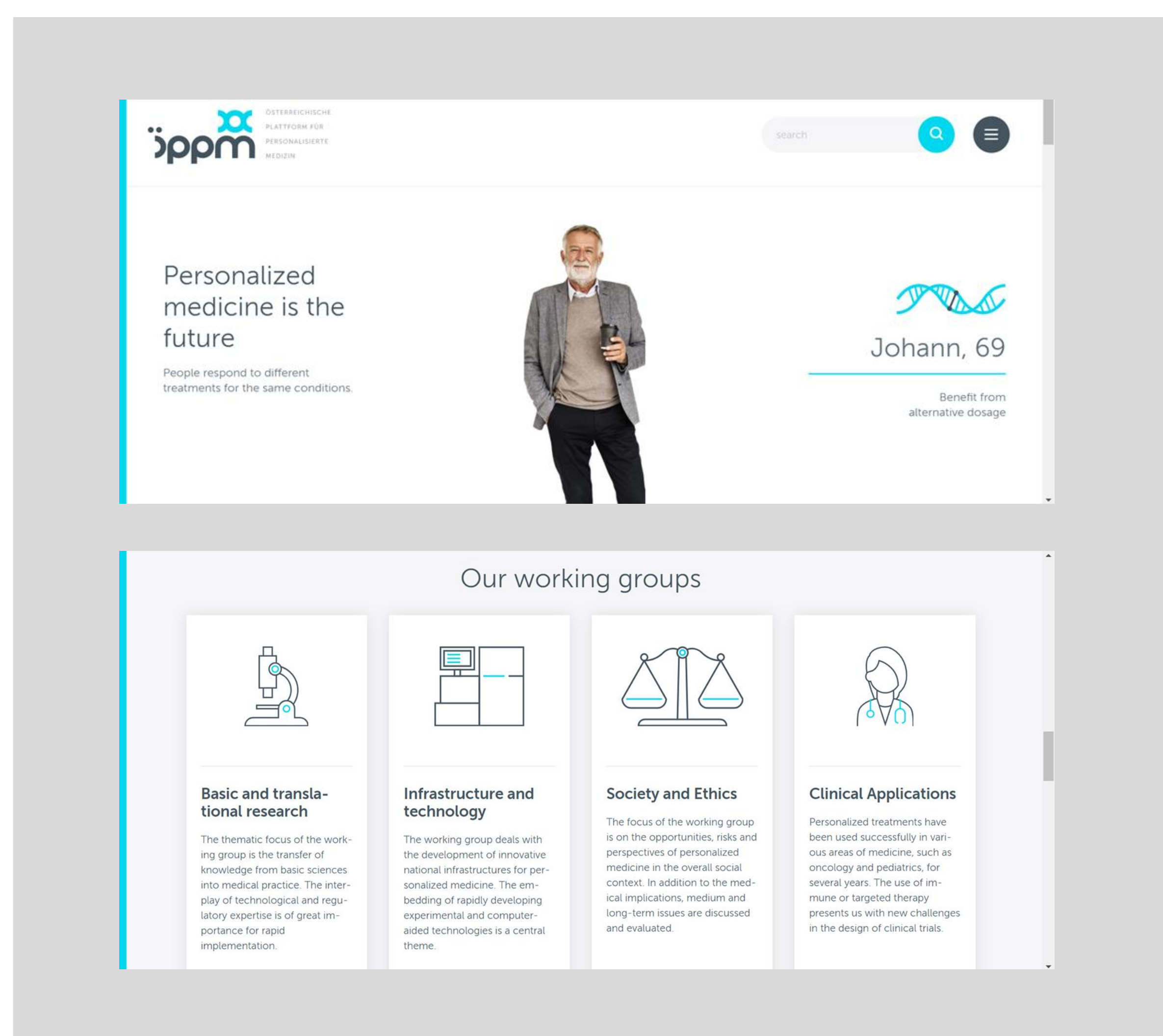
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Background

The Austrian Platform for Personalized Medicine (ÖPPM) represents a national networking platform that strives to connect all relevant parties in the field. Funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, and to ensure continuity, the ÖPPM was founded as a non-profit association by the three Medical Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Objectives

The overarching aim of our independent Platform is to promote the trans-sectoral linkage of all interested parties and disciplines engaged in application, research, implementation or communication of PerMed. These networking efforts foster new ways of strategic collaborations within the scientific community and leverage public outreach initiatives to inform the Austrian public. A continuous, wide debate on the benefits and challenges of current developments aims to contribute to a raising awareness and health literacy within our society.



Impressions from the ÖPPM webpage. A slider element illustrates the concept of Personalized Medicine (above). Four Working Groups provide the setting for initiatives of members (below).

Expert network

The steadily growing ÖPPM community gathered **17 non-profit member organizations**, including universities, extramural research institutions, patient advocacy groups, scientific associations as well as the Association of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Industry.

The **141 personal members** represent various professional disciplines such as clinicians, researchers, experts for public health, ethical, legal and social implications, science communication, patient advocates, post-graduate students and many others more. Their commitment reflects the key resource for the beneficial development of our Platform.

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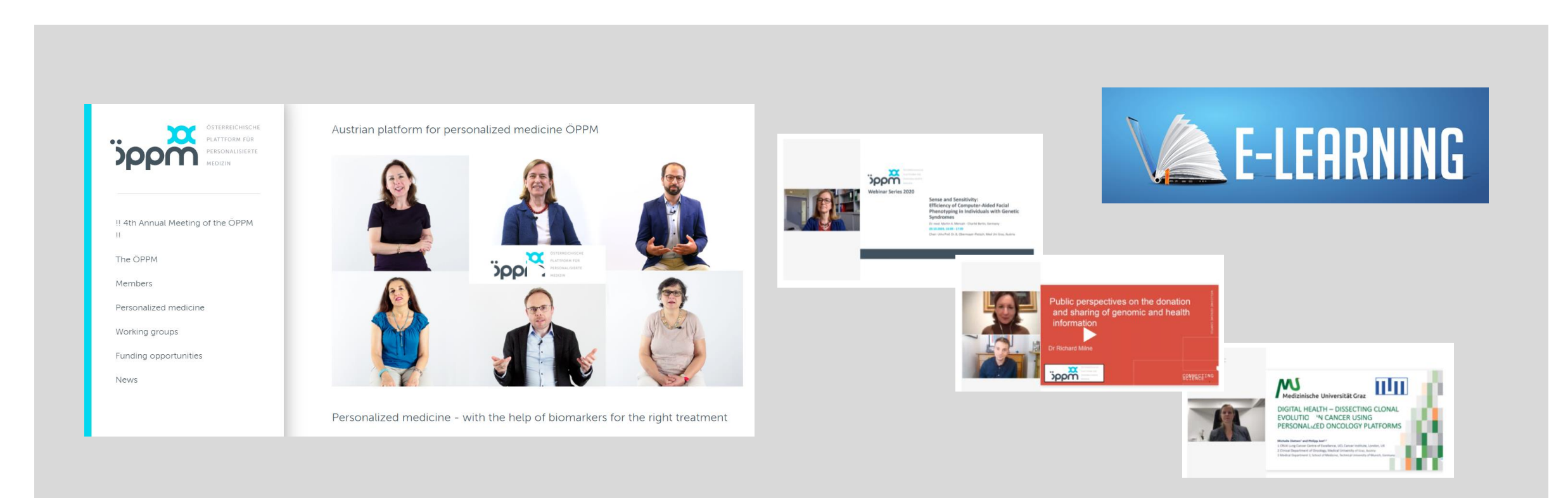
Selected activities

The ÖPPM is open for individuals and organizations that would like to contribute to the future of PerMed in Austria and beyond.

Four working groups (“Society and Ethics”, “Basic and Translational Research”, “Infrastructure and Technology”, “Clinical Applications”) offer a setting for dedicated activities.

- A **webpage** offers educational information, content in simple language (inclusion and accessibility) and presents expertise of network members.
- Distribution of collaboration requests to members (e.g. received via the ICPeMed partnering tool).
- **Annual meetings**: national conferences dedicated to various aspects of PerMed:
 - ✓ 2017: Inaugural Symposium
 - ✓ 2018: ÖPPM – Joining Forces for Personalized Medicine
 - ✓ 2019: Personalized Medicine: Expectations & Economic Aspects
 - ✓ 2020: Digitalization in Personalized Medicine (Virtual program)
- **Training courses for teachers** (target group: high school teachers)*
- **Online course** on PerMed (target group: high school students and public; www.onlinekurs.personalized-medicine.at)*
- Workshops, webinars, conference paper, expert video statements

*These activities are conducted in close collaboration with Open Science – Life Sciences in Dialogue (www.openscience.or.at/en/)



Virtual ÖPPM 2020. A webinar series, expert video statements, a virtual poster challenge and publication of an online course shaped the agenda of the first online conference program.

Future perspectives

Structural

- Growth and sustainability
- Strategic coordination with the Austrian Federal Ministries for Science and Health

Topical

Continuous foci of interest: “Digitalization” and “big/medical data”

Visional

Recognition by citizens and decision-makers as expert network and Austria’s “independent conscience” of Personalized Medicine

References

- **Personalized medicine in Austria: expectations and limitations.** Mirjam Pot, Marc Brehme, Amin El-Heliebi, Brigitte Gschmeidler, Philipp Hofer, Thomas Kroneis, Michael Schirmer, Simone Schumann, and Barbara Prainsack *Personalized Medicine* 2020 17:6, 423-428.

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