

## Healthcare industry BW

# New DFG-funded Clinical Research Units at the University of Heidelberg

**The German Research Foundation (DFG) has established six new Clinical Research Units, including the “Heavy ion therapy in radiooncology” research unit at the University Hospital of Heidelberg.**

The new Clinical Research Unit 214 “Heavy ion therapy in radiooncology” headed up by Professor Dr. Oliver Jäkel, Department of Radiooncology and Radiotherapy at the Ion Beam Therapy Centre of the University Hospital of Heidelberg, hopes to find an answer to the question of the relative importance of ion therapy in radiotherapy and other state-of-the-art procedures. With the Ion Beam Therapy Centre (HIT) in Heidelberg, the research group now has access to unique technological methods and equipment, including conventional photon radiation, and proton and carbon ion beams. Working closely with physicists, biologists and radiotherapists, the researchers aim to develop, amongst other things, new technologies for beam guidance and radiation planning in order to optimally use the physical and biological advantages of particle therapy for tumour therapy.

The University Hospital of Heidelberg is also the public face of the research group, in that Prof. Dr. Jürgen Debus, head of the Department of Radiooncology and Radiotherapy at the University Hospital of Radiology acts as spokesperson for the new group of clinical researchers.

Since 2001, the DFG has established 41 Clinical Research Units, including six new units since July 2008. The goal of this funding instrument is to “promote close, medium-term cooperation between several outstanding scientists in a special research project in disease- or patient-oriented research, which, in terms of thematic focus, duration and finances, extends beyond the funding options available under the Individual Grants Programme or Priority Programme.” Previously funded project groups have been so successful that the Senate Commission of the DFG recommended the continuation of the funding programme in order to further strengthen the efficiency and scientific quality of clinical research in Germany through a reorientation of the programme. Further information can be downloaded from the DFG website at: [DFG, Clinical Research Units](#).

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Further information  
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### Article

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