Website address:
https://www.gesundheitsindustrie-bw.de/en/article/press-release/dkfz-researchers-among-top-citations

DKFZ Researchers Among the Top in Citations

13 researchers who conduct research at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) or lead joint bridge departments with the DKFZ have reached the very top in 2026: They rank among the top 1 percent of the world's most-cited researchers in their respective fields. Scientists whose work is cited particularly frequently by their peers are considered to be exceptionally well-recognized in their field. Therefore, citation frequency is one of the key metrics used to assess the influence and performance of individual researchers.

The "Web of Science Group," a division of the U.S.-based company Clarivate, publishes an annual ranking of the world's most-cited researchers in 21 different disciplines—encompassing all natural sciences, medicine, and the economic and social sciences—as well as in the "Cross Fields" category.

In 2026, 6,802 researchers worldwide are ranked among the top 1 percent of the most-cited experts in their respective fields. Among the 373 researchers from German institutions on this year's list, twelve are based at the DKFZ—serving as heads of scientific departments or of bridge units linking the institute with university medical centers or other research institutions.

The top-ranked researchers in 2026 are:

- *Florian Büttner*, Frankfurt site of the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK), combines expertise in the fields of (single-cell) bioinformatics, machine learning, and oncology.
- Biochemist *Tobias Dick* is researching how (cancer) cells cope with oxidative stress. He heads the Redox Regulation Division at the DKFZ.
- *Eran Elinav* is an expert on the health effects of the gut microbiome. He works at the Weizmann Institute in Israel and heads a research division at the DKFZ that studies the influence of the microbiome on cancer development.
- *Moritz Gerstung* is a division head at the DKZF and at EMBL-EBI in Hinxton, UK. Using AI and big data, he studies how tumors grow and change over time.
- *Uwe Haberkorn*, a nuclear medicine specialist and head of a clinical collaboration unit between the DKFZ and Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD), is developing new nuclear medicine procedures based on peptides and antibodies. He is the Medical Director of Nuclear Medicine at UKHD.
- *Mathias Heikenwälder* (University of Tübingen and DKFZ) is researching how chronic inflammation leads to cancer and how these processes can be halted.
- Oncologist *Dirk Jäger* (DKFZ, NCT Heidelberg, UKHD) and his research team are analyzing the immune responses that target cancer and aim to apply this knowledge to the development of new immunotherapies.
- Neurologist *Michael Platten* heads a Clinical Cooperation Unit of the DKFZ and the University Medical Center Mannheim. He is the Medical Director of the University Neurology Clinic in Mannheim and conducts research on immunotherapies for brain tumors.
- Immunologist and entrepreneur *Uğur Şahin* heads the Department of mRNA-Based Cancer Therapies at the Helmholtz Institute HI-TRON Mainz. HI-TRON Mainz is a collaborative effort between the DKFZ, TRON gGmbH, the University Medical Center, and the University of Mainz.
- *Oliver Stegle* (DKFZ and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, EMBL) develops methods for analyzing high-throughput data. A key focus of his work is on methods for studying genetic variations in individual cells.
- *Özlem Türeci*, an immunologist and entrepreneur, heads the Department of Personalized Immunotherapy at the Helmholtz Institute HI-TRON in Mainz. HI-TRON Mainz is a collaboration between the DKFZ, TRON gGmbH, the University Medical Center, and the University of Mainz.
- *Jochen Utikal* is the Director of a Clinical Cooperation Unit for Dermato-Oncology, which focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of skin tumors and conducts various translational research projects aimed at applying research findings to clinical practice.
- *Andreas von Deimling* is internationally renowned for developing diagnostic antibodies that can detect cancer-specific mutations and are used worldwide to improve the assessment of brain tumors. He headed a clinical collaboration unit between the DKFZ and the UKHD until 2026.

For the current list, Clarivate considered the authors of all scientific publications that appeared between 2015 and 2025 and were among the top 1 percent of the most-cited scholarly articles ("highly cited papers").

Depending on the size of the field, the number of citations required to rank in the top 1 percent varies. Most of the researchers on the list are from U.S. institutions (36.8%), followed by China (20.9%), the United Kingdom (7.3%), and Germany (5.3%).

Press release

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Source: German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)

Further information

- German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)