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Organoids: German-Korean conference on miniature organs at the BfR

Whether it's the stomach, intestines, liver, kidneys, heart or brain, just about every organ can now be "recreated" in microscopic size in the laboratory. At least some of the functions of an organ can already be studied with the help of these "organoids". Organoids are helpful for investigating diseases or testing the effects of drugs and chemicals, meaning they can help reduce the need for animal experiments. To mark the 10th anniversary of the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and to strengthen cooperation with the Korea Institute of Toxicology (KIT), a joint symposium of the BfR and KIT titled "Organoids and new approaches in biomedical research and toxicology" will be held on 5 November 2025.

The event will take place at the BfR's Berlin-Marienfelde site (Diedersdorfer Weg 1, 12277 Berlin), and online participation is possible. There is no fee. Registration is required at <https://www.bfr-akademie.de/english/events/jointsym25.html>.

The symposium will address the question of how potentially harmful substances can be tested using organoids and comparable systems. Topics will include how the nervous system can be replicated in the laboratory "in a Petri dish" (in vitro) and what role liver and gastrointestinal organoids can play in toxicological testing procedures. A third part is devoted to the application of human stem cells as well as organ-on-a-chips and disease models.

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH). It protects people's health preventively in the fields of public health and veterinary public health. The BfR provides advice to the Federal Government as well as the Federal States ('Laender') on questions related to food, feed, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics closely related to its assessment tasks.

About the Bf3R

The German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) was founded in 2015 and is an integral part of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). It co-ordinates nationwide activities with the goals of restricting animal experiments to only those which are considered essential, and safeguarding the best possible protection for laboratory animals. Moreover, it intends to stimulate research activities and encourage scientific dialogue.

This text version is a translation of the original German text which is the only legally binding version.

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