

# Educating tomorrow's scientists

Tecan Austria's long-term collaboration with the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences has resulted in a national prize for Bachelor student Doris Rieder from the Austrian Society for Biomedical Scientists, and takes another step in the right direction with a project aimed at school children, teaching them about a healthy lifestyle.



Tecan's team of microplate reader and washer specialists based in Austria are keen to share their expertise and knowledge to help to educate technicians and researchers of the future, and have established several collaborations with local and international science institutes and universities. One such agreement is with the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Salzburg) which approached Tecan several years ago in relation to the Biomedical Scientists course at the Institute. Dr Christian Oberdanner, Marketing Application Specialist for Detection at Tecan, explained: "Tecan is a well-known major player in the life science industry here in Salzburg, and has an excellent reputation in this region. Fachhochschule Salzburg first

approached us in 2009 to provide some guest lectures for the Lab Automation and Measurement Techniques module, which my colleague Dr Katrin Flatscher and I continue to do to this day. All the students work routinely with microplate readers in the lab and, with our thorough product understanding and experience, we are very well placed to teach them all they need to know."

FH-Prof Priv-Doz Dr Geja Oostingh, head of the Bachelor degree course for Biomedical Scientists, added: "I had previous experience of Tecan from my time at the University of Salzburg where, although we routinely used microplate readers from several companies, the Tecan readers were by far the most versatile ones, easy to adapt according to what experiment we were doing. Our collaboration with Tecan works very well; it is important for our students to learn about



An Infinite 200 PRO loaded up for delivery to the Fachhochschule Salzburg

microplate readers, about what's inside, how they function, and what kind of assays can be run on them."

More recently, the agreement has extended to some students spending their internships at Tecan to see a different side of their specialty. In 2011, student Doris Rieder spent 10 weeks at Tecan preparing for her Bachelor thesis. "I was very interested in choosing a theme for my thesis that was different from the usual medical topics. At first, I felt quite intimidated by the proficiency of everyone at Tecan but, from the first day, I felt part of the team, and really appreciated how friendly and helpful everyone was. They had also obviously given a lot of thought to the project prepared for me. I investigated path length correction for absorbance measurements, comparing a mathematical approach with the standard reference method on three different volumes and using three types of microplate. It was a very worthwhile project and earned me the Society for Biomedical Scientists in Austria prize – sponsored by Abbott Laboratories – for the best national Bachelor's thesis. I won 200 Euros for this, and presented my work at the Society's annual meeting."



From left to right: Geja Oostingh, Head of Biomedical Analytics, and Mag Dr Doris Walter, Managing Director, both from Fachhochschule Salzburg, and Dietmar Fischerlehner, Head of Research and Development at Tecan Austria



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In 2013, Tecan donated an Infinite® 200 PRO reader to the faculty to give students the opportunity to train on a state-of-the-art instrument and learn to perform different experiments alongside the Tecan lectures. The new reader is based at the University's Salzburg Hospital site, where it is used for teaching and some associated research projects. One of these is a school-based project, as Geja explained: "The aim of the project is to educate school children about a healthy lifestyle. We take blood samples before and after a series of teaching sessions to see if the lessons have a positive effect on their health status. We measure a panel of thirty different analytes, including cholesterol, glucose and hormones etc, some of which are analyzed on the plate reader using a multiplex assay. The support we have had from Tecan has been excellent; we are very pleased with this collaboration."

Christian concluded: "We are delighted to be supporting local science education and look forward to continuing our relationship with the Fachhochschule Salzburg."

To learn more about Fachhochschule Salzburg, go to [www.fh-salzburg.ac.at](http://www.fh-salzburg.ac.at)  
To find out more on Tecan's Infinite 200 PRO, visit [www.tecan.com/infinite200](http://www.tecan.com/infinite200)



Dietmar Fischerlehner demonstrating the Infinite 200 PRO to students and staff