



Press Release

The cradle of Biochemistry becomes a museum

Biotech company CureVac sponsors renovation of the Tübingen lab where first step to DNA discovery was made

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Tübingen, 3 November 2014



The old kitchens in Hohentübingen Castle – the first biochem lab, c.1879.
Photo: MUT

One of the world's first biochemistry laboratories is to be opened to the public as a museum. The Tübingen biotechnology enterprise CureVac is sponsoring the project to the tune of €100,000.

The laboratory in question is the former kitchens of Hohentübingen Castle, where Friedrich Miescher discovered nucleic acid, the material of which DNA and RNA are made, in 1869.

“The old kitchens are a very special place to us,” says Dr. Ingmar Hoerr, co-founder and managing director of CureVac. “145 years ago, Friedrich Miescher discovered the molecule here which today forms the basis of our cancer medications and vaccines. We are very proud that the birthplace of RNA is located in our town. This is a great example of innovation over generations – made in Tübingen.”

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Left to right: Professor Dr. Ernst Seidl, University of Tübingen Museum; Dr. Ingmar Hoerr, managing director of CureVac GmbH; Professor Dr. Bernd Engler, President of Tübingen University. Photo: Friedhelm Albrecht / University of Tübingen