Welcome to Marburg, a university town with an 800 year history, with small crooked streets and lanes in the old town between the river Lahn and the castle on the hill.

University flair set in an impressive surrounding countryside! An interplay between history, tourism and culture has always been a hallmark of Marburg. This was even the case in the 13th century when the “Deutsche Orden” built, in honour of the in 1231 here deceased St. Elisabeth, the first gothic hall church on German soil. The pilgrims from far and wide who visited the Elisabeth church were the first tourists.

Landgrave Philipp (the magnanimous!) when he founded the University in 1527 also ensured that Marburg would be a town open to the world with students and visitors from all over the globe.

The first Nobel Prize winner for medicine Emil von Behring after whom the pharmaceutical company was named gave Marburg, by his combining of science with business, the impulse to become a centre for meetings and congresses. History, culture, science and the unique ambience make together the special attractiveness of Marburg.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Venue**
Philipps-Universität Marburg  
Central Lecture Building  
Biegenstraße 14  
35037 Marburg (DE)

**Date**
22–25 March 2017

**Organiser**
Gesellschaft für Virologie e. V.  
(GfV, Society for Virology)  
www.g-f-v.org

Deutsche Vereinigung zur Bekämpfung der Viruskrankheiten e. V.  
(DVV, German Association for the Control of Virus Diseases)  
www.dvv-ev.de

**Conference Chair**
Prof. Dr. Stephan Becker  
Philipps-Universität Marburg  
Center for Hygiene and Infection Biology  
Institute for Virology  
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**Conference Organisation**
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**Industrial Exhibition**
The conference will be accompanied by an extensive, specialised industrial exhibition. Interested companies are invited to request information on the exhibition modalities from the conference organisation Conventus.
Welcome Note

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to invite you to join the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology held from 22–25 March 2017 in Marburg, Germany. The meeting will be hosted by the Philipps-Universität and will take place in the main lecture hall in close proximity to the historical city center of Marburg. Philipps-Universität is not only a university steeped in tradition, it is also the oldest university in the world that was founded as a Protestant institution in 1527. It has been a place of research and teaching for nearly five centuries. Nowadays the nearly 25,700 students studying in Marburg shape the appearance of the city with 75,000 inhabitants.

The year 2017 is an important year for Marburg virologists since we commemorate the anniversary of the Marburg virus outbreak 50 years ago, in 1967. The first outbreak of an imported highly pathogenic tropical virus in Germany coined virological research in Marburg which is focused on Marburg, Ebola, Lassa, Nipah and highly pathogenic influenza A viruses. Our interest in emerging viruses will also partially influence the plenary sessions of the meeting.

As usual, the annual meeting of the German Society of Virology will cover a broad spectrum of topics in virology in workshops and poster sessions. Since a major aim of the meeting is to provide a platform for young scientists to present their results and ideas, we particularly welcome next generation’s researchers joining us and would like to encourage all senior virologists to promote their mentees’ attendance.

I am convinced that we will have a very successful and stimulating 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology in our beautiful city. The organising committee and I look forward to welcoming you all in Marburg!

Prof. Dr. Stephan Becker
Conference Chair