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What are the main aims on your agenda as a dean/head of the Centre for Molecular Biology?

At the operative level we want to enhance further the existing strengths at Max F. Perutz Laboratories (MFPL) by establishing and improving scientific service facilities and optimizing the technical and administrative support structures that foster internationally competitive research. At the strategic level we want to continue appointing outstanding junior group leaders, by offering attractive, competitive packages, so as to consolidate the research and teaching base.

Which are the priority tasks in the field of research and teaching?

We will continue our approach of implementing modern, performance-orientated systems for the allocation of resources within existing university structures. We also want to establish more collaborations with other institutes in Vienna, so as to exploit our common strengths and interests. In teaching we need to reorganize postgraduate training according to the Bologna criteria through structured PhD programmes offering interdisciplinary training and mentoring. We also need to address the issue of impending retirements by making use of the existing and new expertise in our faculty.

What, in your opinion, is the most important challenge of a dean?

To balance research and teaching so as to maintain and increase our national and international scientific profile whilst training the next generation of outstanding students for a career inside or outside academia.