

Cell division:
The Research
Institute of
Molecular
Pathology
researches
into the
weaknesses
of human
cancer cells.

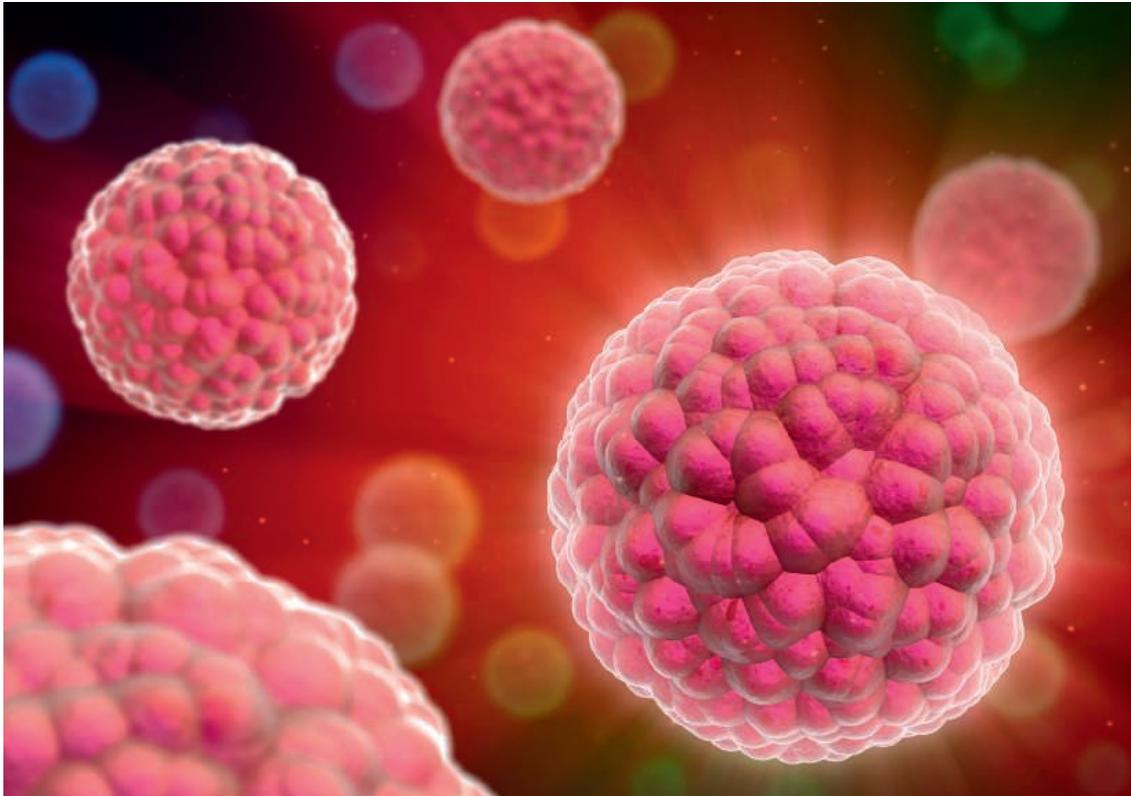


Photo: istockphoto

Research for life

Competence in the fight against cancer: the German group Boehringer Ingelheim carries out most of its oncology research in Austria. What makes the business location so attractive.

They are small and unpredictable, aggressive and destructive. Scientists around the world have been searching for their weak spots for decades. Research into cancer cells is a basic feature of the life science sector. A particularly strong business location in this field is Austria. Not only pharmaceutical giants such as Baxter, Sandoz and Glaxo-SmithKline, but also small, innovative companies such as AFFiRiS find optimal conditions there. "Customized R&D funding programs as well as a research premium of ten percent are only two ways in which Austria supports the life science sector", says René Siegl,

Managing Director of the national investment promotion agency ABA-Invest in Austria, which consults companies free of charge and provides consulting services for firms setting up business operations in Austria. In addition, Austria offers numerous tax advantages. German companies such as Boehringer Ingelheim are also represented in Austria with research facilities. Boehringer Ingelheim operates its global oncology research center here, and coordinates its entire clinical research for the region of Central and Eastern Europe. For 25 years the company has been the main sponsor of the Re-

search Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP) at the Campus Vienna Biocenter, where scientists are trying to find the weaknesses of leukemia cells, amongst other things.

SUCCESSFUL CANCER RESEARCH.

The objective is to "reprogram" these cells by blocking certain genes. Initial attempts have shown that the approach is successful. An immediate stop to cell division occurs after a specific gene is deactivated. This means that the cancer cells no longer reproduce or even die off. Moreover, researchers also hope to be able to use appropriate

drugs in the fight against other types of cancer.

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