

ACalNet - The Aachen-California Network of Academic Exchange

Program extension 2017-2018

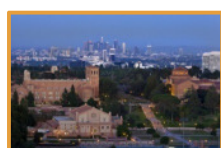
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The Network

ACalNet is a Thematic Network, which interconnects core disciplines from the natural sciences and engineering, focusing on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and catalysis, with special interest in the interface of these two areas. This includes the application of highly sensitive NMR spectroscopy, imaging, hyperpolarization, and other spectroscopic techniques to study catalysis, materials structure and interfaces, quantum information processing, imaging and sensing.

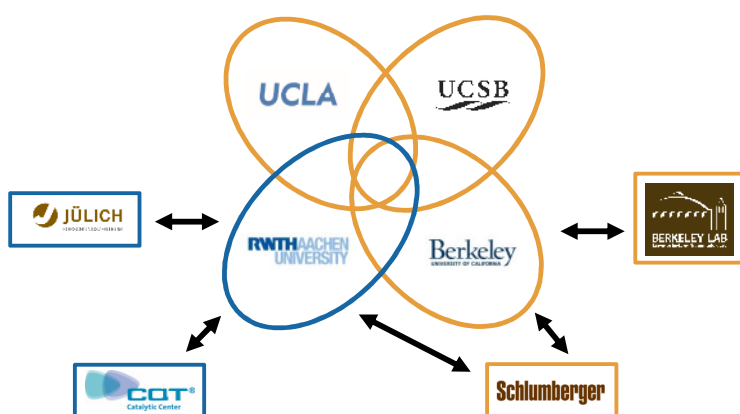
Partner institutions in Germany and USA



UC Los Angeles



RWTH Aachen University



UC Santa Barbara



UC Berkeley

Goal

The main goal of the extension period is to lead ACalNet into a sustainable activity by following a multi-modal approach in establishing a number of formally independent, but factually interlinked, collaborative research spin-offs perceived to provide synergy to the key ideas of the original ACalNet concept.

Strategy

The network evolved from the first funding period, with emphasis on research-guided student exchanges, into the extension period, focusing on strategic meetings to build up the network's spin-off projects. The exchanges of academic members have been increased in number, though shortened, to intensify the frequent and active discussion, essential to work on ACalNet's post-DAAD-funded period.

Yearly workshops continue to offer the perfect platform for broad interaction and active communication between the players involved in the various ACalNet spin-off projects, in order to successfully initiate the coordinated activities of these programs.

Structure

Since its establishment in 2013, ACalNet has experienced an impressive growth, currently totaling 46 academic members from RWTH Aachen University and the partner institutions in California. The successful collaboration of 23 academic members in Aachen with their counterparts in California is evidenced by a series of joint grant proposals and publications.

The focus of the extension period is to build a structure of interlinked spin-off projects, addressing the various educational levels that are currently braced by ACalNet. The spin-off projects currently under preparation include:

- **Research Training Group (RTG):** A DFG-funded Research Training Group is being prepared at RWTH Aachen Univ. with strong ties to the ACalNet partners abroad.
- **IRES, NRT and PIRE:** Grant proposals have been or are being prepared for NSF-funded programs supporting exchange activities from the US to Germany.
- **International Master's Program in Molecular Sciences and Engineering:** The Master's program is being organized at the interface of chemistry, chemical engineering and biotechnology and will be open to English-speaking national and international students.

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