HEIDELBERG, 17 July 2013 – Predisposition to cancer and other diseases, genetic testing, infectious proteins and ubiquitin signalling – these are some of the topics internationally renowned speakers will tackle at ***The EMBO Meeting 2013*** to be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 21-24 September 2013.

Sir Michael Stratton, Director of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, **Kári Stefánsson,** Chief Executive Officer of deCODE Genetics, and
Thijn Brummelkamp
, Group Leader at the Netherlands Cancer Institute and winner of the 2013 EMBO Gold Medal, will discuss
The Future of Cancer Genomics
in an exclusive press conference for journalists and science writers from 11-12 am on Monday 23 September.

On the same day, ***Anne Glover***, Chief Scientific Adviser to José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, will be talking to journalists in a *Me et the Press* event at 6.00 pm.

Sessions on epigenetics, vaccines, stem cell signalling and European science policy are also part of the programme for *The EMBO Meeting*.

The EMBO Meeting first took place in Amsterdam in 2009, when the conference attracted more than 1300 participants from 50 countries. Attendees at this year's meeting will include researchers at all stages of their scientific career. Policy makers, editors, career advisors,

journalists, science bloggers and exhibitors from industry will also be attending the conference.

The EMBO Meeting 2013 will offer plenaries and concurrent sessions by first-rate speakers. Media participants will have multiple opportunities to cover news and also gather ideas for future stories:

- At a keynote lecture at 9:00am on Monday, 23 September, **Hans Clevers** will discuss the challenges in identifying and targeting tumour stem cells (
Lgr5 stem cells in self-renewal and cancer
).

- The *Women in Science* session features award-winning Australian writer **Cordelia Fine**, a psychologist with interests in neuroscience and gender. Her latest book,
Delusions of gender: The real science behind sex differences
, was short-listed for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction, the Best Book of Ideas Prize 2011 and the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize 2010.

- The Special Lecture explores the question *Is there life on other planets?* **Christopher McKay** who is Planetary Scientist with the Space Science Division of NASA, will deliver an update about the Mars Curiosity Rover.

- The role of ubiquitin signaling in cancer is the topic of **Vishva Dixit**, Vice President of Physiological Chemistry at Genentech, part of the Roche Group, and Adjunct Professor at the University of California, San Francisco.

- **Albert Osterhaus** is one of the speakers at the concurrent session on vaccines on Tuesday 24 September from 9-11 am. His team played an important role in the identification of the SARS virus in the Hong Kong outbreak in 2002 and was one of the first to identify human infection with the avian influenza strain H5N1.