Dear TUM friends and associates,

Soon I will be handing over the mantle of president to my successor, Thomas Hofmann. Pride in what we have achieved together and joy over the future course of our alma mater have banished every trace of sadness. On the contrary, I know that TUM is in good hands with Thomas Hofmann and with you, our alumni. You have long been associated with "your TUM". You are our ambassadors, supporters, friends and promoters.

We aspire to shape important topics of the future at the vanguard of academic research. My farewell issue of Faszination Forschung shows you how our scientists are realizing this. It highlights individuals whose appointment at the TUM was a matter of particular interest to me – key people who are preeminent in their field and will certainly continue to command attention in the scientific world.

Elisa Resconi peers deep into the universe. Together with an international team of researchers she has succeeded for the first time in identifying a radiating source of neutrinos in the cosmos: a blazar 5.7 billion light-years away.

Neurobiologist Ilona Grunwald Kadow studies fruit flies to learn how the brain makes decisions and which neurons are involved in the process. Together with mathematician Julijana Gjorgjieva, she has identified a neural circuit that controls motivation and perseverance in the quest for food.

Mathematical models devised by our Humboldt professor Andreas S. Schulz have found interdiscipinary applications. His algorithms are used for solving a wide range of problems: from the setting up flight schedules to operating high-bay warehouses to distributing aid in disaster areas.

Sami Haddadin, who accepted an appointment at TUM instead of going to Stanford or MIT, is involved in multidisciplinary research. The director of our new Munich School of Robotics and Machine Intelligence, which combines our long-standing cutting-edge research in robotics and artificial intelligence, aims to create robots that interact sensitively with humans.

The new Bavarian Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Center (BNMRZ) is opening up unimagined new dimensions in the interdisciplinary field of protein research. Michael

Sattler, one of our most distinguished researchers in the field of structural molecular biology is elucidating complex structures of proteins with a view to identifying targets for the development of new drugs.

Our Master's degree students have clearly shown that our new Department of Aerospace and Geodesy is built on fertile ground. A four-strong team has won the Design Challenge set by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with its design for a fuel-efficient passenger jet.

Architect Francis Kéré is both visionary and very down to earth in his approach. In an interview he talks about the importance of architecture for society and about involving people in planning the built environment. Feeling at ease in our environment begins, after all, with the roof above our heads.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to visit the Anniversary Tower designed by this great architect, which we plan to erect on our Garching Research Campus – admittedly an ambitious project. Visible from afar, open and inviting, it will be a place of exchange, an invitation to the intergenerational community of our wonderful university.

One hundred and fifty years of TUM is just a start – but it's a good, promising start!

Prof. Wolfgang A. Herrmann