ZANDR - The Zebrafish Platform Austria for preclinical drug screening

Zebrafish has proven to be a valuable model organism to investigate and dissect disease driving mechanisms of human diseases. A unique feature among well established vertebrate model organisms is the possibility to carry out phenotypic small compound screens in higher throughput using zebrafish larvae.

Towards this goal, we have recently established an automated zebrafish disease model drug screening platform, which we termed „Zebrafish Platform Austria for preclinical drug screening (ZANDR)“ (www.zandr-ccri.at). The new infrastructure allows for automated sorting of zebrafish larvae into multi-well plates, automated image acquisition as well as automated image analysis. We will apply this new infrastructure to identify therapeutic compounds for pediatric cancers using both, genetically engineered zebrafish cancer models as well as xenotransplantation approaches. Importantly, the ZANDR platform is open to the scientific community.