

Franz Klein, PhD, is full professor at the University of Vienna, Max Perutz Labs, where his research focuses on yeast meiosis, in particular initiation and completion of meiotic recombination and its interface with chromosome structure. He made several seminal contributions in the meiosis field, such as the development of budding yeast as a model organism for cytology. He also discovered budding yeast Rec8 as the meiotic paralog of cohesins kleisin, which ultimately resolved the central paradigm of meiosis: Release of sister chromatid cohesion in two steps, allowing the reduction of chromosome numbers through two divisions in absence of S-phase. He also isolated several key meiotic genes and discovered that DSBs are made in association with the chromosome axis and also discovered that not only DSBs, but also gaps (double-DSBs) are formed to initiate recombination.

Dr Klein was involved in establishing important meeting series, such as the European Meiosis Meetings (since 1990) and the Central European Genome Stability and DNA repair meeting (since 2006). He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and actively contributes to the scientific community as a mentor, journal and grant reviewer.