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Börner wins Stiftung Charité Visiting Fellowship

A Stiftung Charité Visiting Fellowship is the latest honor for Luddy School Professor Katy Börner as she continues her ground-breaking Human Reference Atlas research.

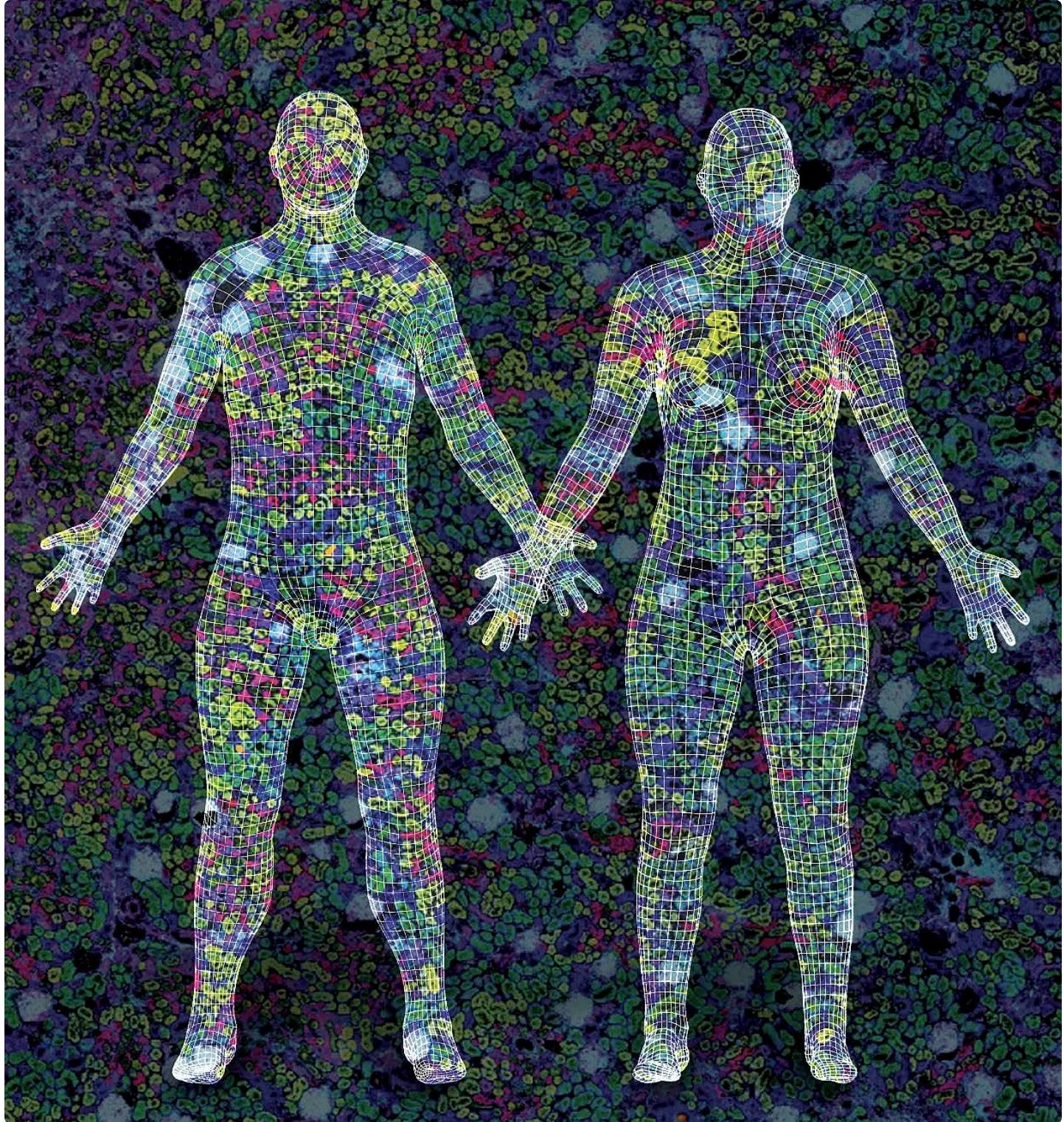
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Human Reference Atlas

[Katy Börner](#), Victor H. Yngve Distinguished Professor of Engineering and Information Science and director of the [Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science \(CNS\) Center](#) at the [Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering](#), has been named a [Skip to main content](#) [Stiftung Charité Visiting Fellow](#).

The three-year fellowship, which began July 1, will support collaborations with [Berlin Institute of Health](#) Professor [Peter Robinson](#) and further develop the [Human Reference Atlas](#) (HRA), a three-dimensional atlas of all anatomical structures and cells of the healthy human body. See details in recent [Nature Methods paper](#).

Their project is titled, “Multiscale Human Reference Atlas – An Ontological Bridge Between Anatomy and Disease.” It interconnects the Börner-led Human Reference Atlas and the Robinson-led Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO), which provides comprehensive bioinformatic resources for the analysis of human diseases and phenotypes to create a computational bridge between genome biology and clinical medicine.

Börner said the goal is to link the HRA to the HPO and medical data “in order to describe disease characteristics and improve diagnostics and research into rare and complex diseases.”

Stiftung Charité Visiting Fellowships provide funding for established or leading researchers from abroad or from other locations in Germany to stay in Berlin at Charité, German Heart Center Berlin or at Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC).

Börner was one of six internationally renowned researchers – ranging from cardiovascular diseases to bioengineering to data-driven medicine – to receive the [visiting fellowship](#). Total funding is about 1.4 million euros. A reception is set for October in Berlin.

“It’s a great reflection of Börner’s leadership on the Human Reference Atlas,” said [Weihua Guan](#), Intelligent Systems Engineering professor and interim ISE chair.

Also, Börner recently presented the HRA at the [17th Annual Conference on Systems Biology of Human Disease](#) hosted by the Berlin Institute of Health at Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and to entrepreneurs and practitioners at the [idalab GmbH](#) (Artificial Intelligence for Life Science and Healthcare), also in Berlin.

“Engineers build bridges to facilitate transportation, engineers also build bridges that connect communities and facilitate communication,” she said. “At a time when global strategic thinking is more important than ever, bridges make it possible for faculty, students, and staff to travel and exchange expertise, data, and code effectively.”

Börner said the Stiftung Charité Visiting Fellowship is similar to the Humboldt Research Fellowship she previously received that created strong, lasting bridges to Technical University in Dresden through collaboration with Technical University Professor [Thomas Köhler](#).

Börner said the Humboldt Research Fellowship funding supported joint research and travel for Börner and her team to Germany, and to organize an international workshop on the [Future of Learning & Work](#), also in Germany.

“This bridge to one of the major technical universities in Germany is still going strong,” she said.

That includes an exhibit on data visualizations entitled “[un]sichtbar - [Visualisierungen in der Wissenschaft](#),” which is on display at COSMO, a new forum for the exchange between science and society at the Kulturpalast Dresden until Aug. 6, 2025.

Media relations



Indiana University
Pete DiPrimio
Writer/Editor

P: [\(812\) 855-1341](#)
E: pdiprimi@iu.edu

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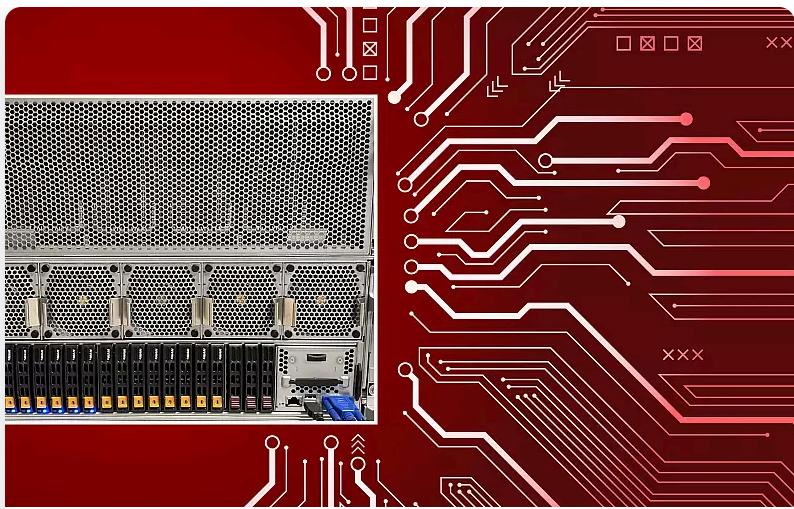


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Luddy Bloomington

700 N. Woodlawn Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-856-5754

luddy@iu.edu

Luddy Indianapolis

535 W. Michigan Street
IT 400, Indianapolis, IN
317-278-4636

luddyin@iu.edu

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