The smallest cancer patient ever
A team of scientists from Kiel University has discovered the mechanics of tumour growth. By caring for the tiny and ancient animal Hydra, former Humboldt fellow Alexander Klimovich is looking for ways of dealing with cancer.

Hydra is probably the smallest cancer patient in the world. The tiny freshwater animal has only two cells – a stem cell and a test cell. The test cell is not allowed, they might spill and spoil the scientific surroundings. Hydra lives in a special test tube, inactive until some food passes by. Then they grab the food with their foot-like organs and eat it up. Then they continue swimming to the other side of the test tube.

This extra care is essential, as the patients present a milestone in cancer research. For the last 50 years, there have been intensive debates as to whether animals other than humans can naturally develop tumors. With time tumors were observed in monkeys, dogs, birds, but they remained unreported in other invertebrate, simpler animals”, the scientist from St. Petersburg explains. “In the case of Hydra, the test cell is an immortal living tissue that has been continuously in existence for more than 300 million years. Compared to a healthy animal, the animals carrying tumors are gravely sick, and need intensive care to keep them alive”, Klimovich declares. “The room in which the Hydra population is kept is cold. Klimovich has to wear a sweater - warm drinks are not allowed, they might spill and spoil the scientific surroundings. Hydra lives in a special test tube, inactive until some food passes by. Then they grab the food with their foot-like organs and eat it up. Then they continue swimming to the other side of the test tube.

It takes Netra P. Paudyal days to get to his objects of research. He has to take a plane to Kathmandu, an eight-hour-long bus-ride into the mountains and needs to walk for another eight hours. His destination is a secluded village in the Nepalese mountains on the banks of the Madi and Narayan rivers. Here, a few speakers of Darai still exist.

Dr. Alexander Klimovich has to take extra care of his scientific objects. Hydra suffering from cancer. With their help he aims to understand the mechanisms of the disease.

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Paudyal is a linguist, based at Kiel University and funded by a Humboldt fellowship. “Not only the long travel time needed to reach the speakers of Darai is complicated”, the 38-year old Dr. Netra P. Paudyal is an expert in General Linguistics. He is also an anthropologist: “I do more of a lot of languages, and that it could get too confusing. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are translated into English and Nepali. Then, dictionaries are written and structures are trans...