

AN ENGINEER DEDICATED TO A WIDE RANGE OF GOALS



Photo: Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung

TEXT: MIRIAM HOFFMEYER

Having completed his studies at the University of Stuttgart, medical engineer Lukas Findeisen now works at the interface between science and society.

Lukas Findeisen has been interested in how new technologies might contribute to a fairer and healthier society since the first semester of his medical engineering studies. "I believe that engineers have a huge responsibility to the public," says the 30-year-old, who has been working as a program manager for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Life Science Technologies (LST) at the Carl Zeiss Foundation in Stuttgart since late 2021, where he helped to develop the foundation's new ten-year strategy. "Working at the intersection between politics, science, and business is incredibly exciting," says Findeisen.

The new development strategy prioritizes AI, LST, and resource efficiency each of which, as the medical technology expert explains, will be focused on four action areas. "For the life science technologies, that means sensors, surfaces, data, and synthetics," he explains, "appropriate projects might cover such things as ingestible diagnostic robots, implant surfaces, the AlphaFold AI, which can be used to design proteins, or the production of tissue fragments that can be used in the development of personalized medicines." University research projects in each of the four action areas will be eligible for support as will transfer projects at universities of applied sciences. The first calls of tender in the field of sensor technology have already been published. "carry out the formal review of the applications received and oversee both the selection and implementation of the projects," says Findeisen, whose responsibilities also include 21 ongoing projects, which are receiving support: "This gives me an insight into an extremely wide range of cutting-edge research topics, which is incredibly rewarding for me!"

Findeisen grew up in Bochum before relocating to the southwest in 2012 to complete a joint bachelor's program in medical technology at the universities of Stuttgart and Tübingen after which he completed a master's degree at the University of Stuttgart in 2020. "Not only did I receive an excellent professional education and learn many technical skills," he says, "but I also met some great people such as Prof. Stephan Nußberger, who supervised my bachelor's studies. My class was only the second intake to complete the bachelor's program. I was involved in setting up the student council at the time and

am very grateful that we were given such a free hand. We students were involved in everything, from shaping the curriculum to evaluating the quality of teaching."

Findeisen spent almost two years as Manager of Innovation and Digitization Projects at the Baden-Württemberg State Association of the German Red Cross, which he continues to advise, before switching to the Carl Zeiss Foundation. He does volunteer work for "Decentrale," an organization that he co-founded, which develops workshops and other learning events on issues such as intersectionality and inclusive leadership from a feminist perspective. "I'm convinced that groups in which power is distributed fairly make better decisions," he explains. "One of the overriding concerns for our generation is to challenge the overall distribution of roles to improve things for everyone." →

Lukas Findeisen

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