In 1818 the university installed a chemistry lab in the former kitchens of the Hohentübingen Castle. It soon became one of the first research sites of biochemistry worldwide. Georg Carl Sigwart and Julius Eugen Schlossberger were pioneers in this field, which investigates the chemical processes of organisms, particularly the metabolic process in humans.
During the era of Felix Hoppe-Seyler, appointed professor in 1861, the field of biochemistry in Tübingen conducted outstanding research. Hoppe-Seyler examined the red blood pigment and named it “hemoglobin.” In 1869, his student, Friedrich Miescher (pictured above) made the groundbreaking discovery of a substance he named “Nuklein” while working in the castle laboratory. Today this substance is known as DNA and RNA, the carriers of all genetic information.

Because of the historic importance of the castle laboratory, it was decided to reopen the space to the public beginning in 2015. CureVac, a Biotech company located in Tübingen, financed the museum space using funds awarded to them from a European research prize. Today, Friedrich Miescher’s groundbreaking discovery is the basis here in Tuebingen, for pioneering research into RNA based cancer medication and vaccinations.

The new museum space conveys the significant importance of Tübingen’s biochemistry research from its beginnings in the castle laboratory to the present day. Historical apparatuses and compounds give an impression of lab work in the 19th century; interactive media convey impressions into modern biochemistry research. The focal point of the exhibition is the previously inaccessible, original test tube holding “Nukleinsäure” (nucleic acid) used by Friedrich Miescher in his experiments.