PhD studentship

Virus-Immunology

The Heinrich Pette Institute – Leibniz-Institute for Experimental Virology (HPI), is committed to research on the biology of different human viruses as well as the pathogenesis of viral diseases. The HPI offers the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research in a world-class research environment with excellent technical facilities.

We are looking for highly motivated candidates with a strong interest in infectious diseases and immunology.

Reactivation of latent childhood adenovirus infection the intestine is a critical emerging cause of severe infections in immune-compromised individuals, especially in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, with lethality rates reaching up to 80%. The mechanisms that enable intestinal control of adenovirus replication and dissemination are not well understood due to lack of disease models. Recently developed organoid systems allow for the first time to study adenovirus infections of untransformed primary human intestinal epithelial stem cells. The overall goal is to investigate the mechanisms by which adenovirus overcomes cell intrinsic immunity in human primary intestinal stem cells and the consequences of infection for immune recognition by NK cells. These studies aim to identify targets for intervention to prevent severe adenovirus infection in immune-compromised hosts. To address this goal, this is a combined project of the Altfeld and Dobner laboratories with expertise in antiviral immunity and HAdV biology.

We offer a joined PhD position in the Research Unit “Virus Immunology” (Head: Prof. Marcus Altfeld) and the research Unit “Viral Transformation” (Head: Prof Dobner). Payment and social benefits are in accordance with regulations of the German TV-AVH (salary agreement public service employees).

If you have further questions, please contact Dr. Madeleine Bunders (Email: madeleine.bunders@leibniz-hpi.de).

Applications should include a CV, a short description of previous experiences and technical skills, and two or three references. Please submit your application by March 20, 2018. Late applications will be considered until the position is filled.