Post-Doctoral Position

Virus-Immunology

The Heinrich-Pette-Institute (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 basic and translational immunology in the group of Prof. Altfeld.

Our immune system defends us from environmental threats, such as pathogens, and removes abnormal cells that potentially lead to malignancies. Optimal immunological homeostasis is achieved when the threat (e.g. pathogen) is removed with the highest efficiency whilst avoiding collateral tissue damage for the host. Increasing scientific evidence suggests that this immunological balance is different between women and men. It has been shown that females mount stronger immune responses against pathogens compared to males, leading to more rapid control or clearance of infections. Enhanced immune responsiveness in females, however, comes at a cost, including significantly higher incidences of autoimmune diseases. Despite these well-established differences in clinical manifestations of infectious and autoimmune diseases between females and males, the underlying biological mechanisms are not well understood. Previous studies by the Altfeld laboratory have shown that both sex hormones and X chromosome-encoded genes can contribute to sex differences in antiviral immune responses. The goal of the project will be to investigate the contribution of genes on the X chromosome that escape X-chromosomal inactivation in immune cells to sex differences in antiviral immune responses.


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

The HPI promotes the professional equality between all genders. Handicapped applicants with equal qualifications will be given preferential treatment.

Applications should include a CV, a short description of previous experiences and technical skills, and two or three references. Please submit your application by April 2nd 2022. Late applications will be considered until the position is filled.

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