

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 diploma/master degree (or equivalent). Experience in immunology, stem cell biology and/or multiparameter flow cytometry would be welcome.

The liver plays a key role in regulating immune responses upon exposure to pathogens. Disruption of the tolerogenic milieu due to viral infections in the liver is associated with liver inflammation and liver failure. The mechanisms underlying the disruption of tolerogenic milieu in the liver are largely unknown, however dysregulated crosstalk between immune cells and hepatocytes by pathogens is suggested to contribute to liver inflammation. Until recently studies investigating the crosstalk between immune cells and parenchymal cells had to rely on cell lines or animal models with repercussions for translation to the human (non-malignant) setting. The breakthrough development of the organoid technology allows now to study these interactions between hepatocytes and immune cells using primary liver-derived immune cells and hepatocytes from patients. We have recently shown that innate lymphocyte populations are altered in liver inflammation. In the proposed study, the mechanisms underlying dysregulated responses by innate lymphocytes in liver inflammation and the impact on hepatocyte regeneration will be investigated using organoid systems.

We offer a PhD position for three years in the Research Department “Virus Immunology” / ‘**Immune Ontogeny**’. Payment and social benefits are in accordance with regulations of the German TV-AVH (salary agreement public service employees).

For 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 31st, 2020. Late applications will be considered until the position is filled.

Heinrich-Pette-Institute
Leibniz-Institute for Experimental Virology
Personnel Department
Martinistraße 52, 20251 Hamburg
personnel@leibniz-hpi.de

