

Job announcement No. 29/2019

The Institute of Experimental Virology of Prof. Dr. Thomas Pietschmann at the TWINCORE-Center for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research in Hannover, Germany is seeking a

Doctoral Researcher (f/m/d)

Project title: The relevance of lipid droplet biogenesis to the hepatitis C virus replication cycle

Project description:

Lipid droplets are intracellular lipid storage organelles. As a key metabolic hub of the cells, they are targeted by a number of pathogens, including viruses, bacteria and parasites. Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a liver-tropic human pathogen that chronically infects 71 million people worldwide. Symptoms include steatosis, the accumulation of lipid droplets in the liver, and may evolve to hepatocarcinoma. At the cellular level, HCV hijacks lipid droplets for its morphogenesis. As a result, the circulating virion resembles host lipoproteins, and this mimicry helps the virus to evade the host immune defences.

Your main project will be the investigation of the role of lipid droplets in HCV replication cycle using cell culture infection models and a broad spectrum of techniques ranging from molecular and cell biology (e.g. cloning, transfections, flow cytometry), biochemistry (e.g. Western Blots, Elisas), and virology (e.g. HCV, lentiviral vectors) to high-end microscopy techniques (confocal microscopy, live cell imaging, advanced image analysis). A particular interest in microscopy is desirable. The project is funded by the DFG and will be conducted under the supervision of Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres. Note that the project involves work in laboratories of biosafety levels 2 and 3.

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, or a related field within the life sciences
- Excellent education/training in molecular and cell biology
- Excellent English communication skills (written and spoken)
- Ability to work independently and as part of an international team
- Experience in virology and/or in microscopy will be of advantage

Equal Opportunities are part of our personnel policy. Qualified applicants with a disability will be given preference, provided their equal aptitude and suitability.

Starting date: August 2019 or later - Initial contract for 3 years

Salary: alike TVöD E13 (50%) with the possibility of an additional payment of 15%

Probation period: 6 months

Published on: 20.03.2019

Closing date: 14.04.2019

Application: Applicants are required to complete the online application form here: <https://hzi.opencampus.net/> (Please select Job No. **29/2019**).

For more details regarding the position, please contact Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres via email: gabrielle.vieyres@twincore.de, or by phone: +49 511 22 00 27 146.

TWINCORE is a joint venture between the Hannover Medical School (MHH) and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI). Further information about the institute can be found on our website: <https://www.twincore.de/en/institutes/experimental-virology/>