

**PhD position (f/m/d) available in Infectious Immunology
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**



PhD position TVL EG13 65%

**is available in the lab of Prof. Stefanie Scheu
Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hospital Hygiene
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

The lab of Prof. Stefanie Scheu explores the functions of cytokines - messenger molecules of the immune system - involved in the immunological defence against infections. We generate and employ gene deficient and reporter mouse lines to identify and functionally define the molecular components of the immune system in complex infection models and to visualize the individual cell populations involved in these processes. A central research focus of the lab are the cellular and molecular mechanisms of the type I interferon (IFN) response. Besides their important role in the host defence against virus infections these cytokines and their cellular sources are currently gaining increasing attention as important mediators of immune pathologies in certain infections and inflammatory autoimmune diseases.

Activities and responsibilities

Plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) is an immune cell type that harbours the capacity to produce high amounts of type I IFNs. Thereby, pDCs play an important and complex role in viral infections mediating protective immune responses or causing immunopathology. Also, dysregulated activation of pDCs is associated with autoimmune diseases.

This position is part of a DFG-funded project investigating the functions of the transcription factor BATF in pDC cell development and type I IFN production in antiviral immune responses.

Qualification profile

We are looking for an excellent and highly motivated PhD student interested in the field of immunology of infectious diseases. Candidates should hold a master's degree or equivalent in natural sciences / life sciences. Expertise in molecular and cellular immunology and/or bioinformatics is of advantage.

Candidates should have a very good command of written and spoken English.

Benefits

We are an international team of highly motivated basic research scientists, and graduate and undergraduate students. Our lab is well networked within the national and international scientific community and within the biomedical research groups of the Heinrich Heine University and the Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf.

Connected to the PhD position is a membership in the *Interdisciplinary Graduate and Research Academy Düsseldorf* - iGRAD. iGRAD is a cross-curricular institution that offers a structured educational program including, workshops on key professional qualifications, counselling, and targeted support for the qualification of young researchers within the faculty.

Send application to

If you feel that you can make a valuable contribution to our field of research, want to learn and establish new techniques and would like to be part of an enthusiastic team please **send an email** containing - **as a single PDF file**:

- a motivation letter stating research and career interests
- your CV
- copies of relevant school and university certificates
- letters of recommendation or contact informations for references

to stefanie.scheu@uni-duesseldorf.de.