

The Department for General-, Visceral- and Pediatric Surgery of the University Clinic Duesseldorf invites applications for a position as

PhD student (m/f/d)

Title: ER beta and dormancy in hepatic disseminated colorectal cancer cells.

Disseminated tumor cells (DTCs) are cancer cells that have spread from primary tumors to form metastasis. As seeds of future metastases, these clinically highly relevant cells are still largely understudied. Furthermore, finding ways to effectively target these dormant cells and their underlying biology would effectively prevent metastatic disease, the main cause of death in CRC. Within the DFG project "Estrogen Receptor β and Dormancy in Hepatic Disseminated Colorectal Cancer Cells" (duration 36 month) we look for an enthusiastic PhD candidate interested in metastasis research.

This research project will focus on the influence of ER β signaling on dormancy induction in CRC. The candidate will learn to use the established in-vivo avian chorion-amnion membrane (CAM) assay to grow human CRC tumors and apply and optimize different methods to isolate DTCs from liver and primary tumor tissue. The candidate will also use single cell 3D Matrigel tissue culture to probe the influence of ER β stimulation on dormancy signaling. In addition, the candidate will optimize existing methods and develop new protocols to enable molecular and functional characterization of DTCs. The position is open to students with a master's degree in life sciences, bio-medical engineering, or equivalent. The candidate must be fluent in English. A strong interest in multidisciplinary research is a prerequisite.

We offer you a very challenging position in an inspiring multidisciplinary environment specialized in CTC/DTC research. Furthermore, our group has several collaborations nationally (e.g. DKTK Surgery) and internationally in the CTC field (e.g. EU CANCER-ID). As a PhD candidate, you will be appointed for three years (remunerated according to the German TV-L E14 65%). In this position you will be a collegiate of the Düsseldorf School of Oncology (DSO) and at the end of the three years' period you should have completed your PhD thesis.

Applications from female scientists are explicitly encouraged and will be given preference in case of equal aptitude, ability and professional achievements unless there are exceptional reasons for choosing another applicant. Applications from equally qualified disabled persons will be given preference.

Please send your application, including a motivation letter, a curriculum vitae, copies of the school-leaving exam and university degrees, lists of university courses with obtained grades, and the names and e-mail addresses of two scientists, who can provide references.

Electronic applications are encouraged (single PDF file). In case the applicant sends printed documents, he/she agrees that these documents become property of the HHU and will not be returned for reasons of costs. The documents will be destroyed after the recruitment process.

Applications should be submitted to the following address:

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