

The research group of Experimental stem cell transplantation  
at the Department of Medicine II, University Hospital Würzburg invites applications for a

### **PhD in Immunology - Leukemia immunotherapy (m/w/d)**

Applications are invited for a PhD student position with Dr. Haroon Shaikh in the Beilhack group (Experimental stem cell transplantation) at the Department of Medicine II, University Hospital in Würzburg. Successful candidates will work in an interdisciplinary project aiming at the development of novel bi-specific hemibody constructs (Banaszek A et al. 2019 *Nat. Comms.*) for high precision immunotherapy in the context of leukemia and allogeneic HCT (DFG funded project).

Our research group aims to better understand tumor microenvironment and allogeneic stem cell transplantation (allo-HCT) with a focus on cellular mechanism and interactions resulting in pro- or anti-inflammatory responses (Shaikh H et al. 2022 *JCI Insight*, Dahlhoff J et al. 2022 *Leukemia*, Chopra M et al. 2016 *JEM*). State-of-the-art preclinical animal models, primary leukemic tissue together with cutting-edge technologies including advanced microscopy (confocal, LSM), cellular methods (flow cytometry) as well as RNA-seq approaches (i.e. bulk and single cell) as well as numerous molecular biotechnological methods such as gain- and loss-of-function assays are applied in our research.

We offer:

- Attractive payment according to TV-L including company pension scheme and annual special payment
- Wide-ranging further training and individual further training in our own academy
- The opportunity to work on a fascinating scientific topic in an international research team
- Continuous scientific mentoring and academic training
- Training in the Graduate School of Life Science at the University of Würzburg

Requirements:

- Excellent Master's degree in life science (or equivalent)
- Sound knowledge and strong interest in immunology and cell biology
- Experience with conditional knock out mice and animal handling
- Fluent speaking and writing skills in English (German is not a must)
- Motivation, reliability and dedication to work in an academic research lab are a must

Applicants with the following qualifications are preferred:

- Hands-on knowledge of mouse models of cancer and/or autoimmunity
- Immune cell isolation and in vitro culture methods
- Experience with molecular, and biochemical standard lab methods
- Experience with RNA -sequencing analysis (single-cell/bulk) and bioinformatics

Responsibilities:

- Development of project: perform experiments, evaluate and quantify results ensuring the project evolves and fulfils the goals and work packages.
- Produce written reports and draft papers.
- Present your results at local meetings and national and international conferences.
- Assist with training other researchers, including Masters' and undergraduate project students.

Please send your application in English (Subject: PhD position-Hemibodies) including a letter of motivation with a brief description of past scientific achievements and academic goals (2 pages max.), CV, publication list (if applicable), and contact information of two academic references as a single PDF-file until February 28th, 2023 via email to [Shaikh\\_H@ukw.de](mailto:Shaikh_H@ukw.de).

More information: <http://www.beilhack.org/>

The University of Würzburg aims to increase the number of women in science. Therefore, women are especially encouraged to apply for this position. Physically handicapped persons will be preferred in case they are equally qualified.