

The DFG funded multi-centre Collaborative Research Consortium CRC/TRR 205 offers the following position within its 2nd funding period:

PhD Student (f/m/x) – life science

Starting September 1st, 2021 - initially limited to 3 years

Our project

The molecular pathology of pheochromocytomas / paragangliomas (PPGLs) and genetically-driven molecular-targeted therapies: Towards precision medicine

Each PPGL has the potential to spread to distant sites, and there are no officially approved systemic therapy options in Europe. Approximately 30-35% of PPGL patients show germline, and another 35-40% somatic driver-mutations. Thus, around 70% of all PPGLs can be assigned to one of three specific molecular clusters with different gene expression signatures and clinical behavior. The aim of this project is to implement personalised genetically-driven therapies for PPGLs (cluster-dependent therapies). We have established 2D/3D human PPGL primary cultures for multiple drug testing, and we have collected surgery-derived human primary cultures from more than 25 different PPGL patients. All surgery-derived tumors have been sequenced. Patients have been tested for germline mutations (if they agreed). The identified germline/somatic mutations will be correlated with drug responsiveness (to more than 15 different drugs) and downstream pathway alterations of the derived primary cultures, as well as with histopathological and clinical data. We plan to collect primary cultures from approximately 60 different PPGL patients in total. The results will be cross-validated in different PPGL cell line models, spheroids, *in vivo* allograft mouse models and patient-derived xenografts.

What we offer

- unparalleled platform of cutting-edge model systems (mice, pigs)
- comprehensive tissue, plasma, and clinical cohorts among the largest in the world
- dynamic, inspiring and supportive research environment
- broad range of tasks and responsibilities
- Excellent equipment
- Close interaction to benefit from the broad expertise of various groups of our institute as well as collaboration partners



Contact Details:

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The TRR205 is committed to increase the proportion of women in all areas and positions in which women are underrepresented. Qualified female applicants are therefore particularly encouraged to apply.

Among candidates with equal aptitude and qualification, a person with disabilities will be given preference.

Become part of a multi-disciplinary and international team:

We are looking forward to your application (CV, publications, references, motivation letter)– preferably per email to

Svenja.noelting@med.uni-muenchen.de



What we offer

- Young Scientist and Clinician Scientist Programs with workshops, mentoring and peer group exchange
- Lab-rotation between the involved institutes
- Position according to the TV-L conditions (E13, 65%)

What we expect

- Background in cell culture work, primary culture work, FELASA B certificate (or an equivalent) allowing the execution of animal experiments, experience with mouse models, immunohistological and molecular biology techniques
- Master's degree (or Diploma) in relevant area
- Team working skills, interdisciplinary cooperation
- High degree of personal commitment and interest in an academic career
- Excellent communication skills, both in verbal and written English

Relevant Publications

Nölting... Pacak Endocr. Rev., 2021 PMID 34147030

Fankhauser...Nölting, Endocrinology, 2019 PMID 31322702