

## Highlights

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Advice from the expert: “How to write a successful proposal”

Reports on GfV workshop, ViReady, Annual Meeting, lab rotation

Interview with Dr. Dörthe Masemann

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## Upcoming events

14 June – 17 June 2023  
KIT 2023

21 June 2023 (virtual; 5:00 pm) – new date  
jGfV virology lecture series: CMV

22 June – 23 June 2023  
Symposium “Cell biology of emerging viral infections”

06 July – 08 July 2023  
International DEEP DV Summer School

## News

Dear fellows,

the annual meeting in Ulm was a great success! We had our own jGfV session followed by the young PI session. Looking forward to continue this in Vienna next year 😊.

Thank you as well for actively voting for the new “student representatives” joining the jGfV board, Nele Villabruna and Maximilian Kelch!

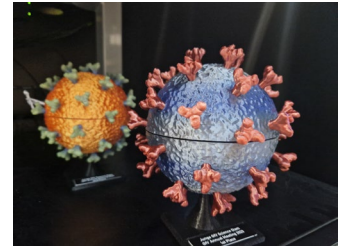
If you are interested in chairing our jGfV lectures or writing a report about them, please contact us! Since we had a lot of activities lately, this issue will contain extended reports of great events of the GfV/jGfV.

Last but not least, we want to thank all contributors to this issue.

Your newsletter team

# Preface

Thank you for joining us during the jGfV session at the annual meeting in Ulm. In case you missed it, we had a very diverse program including our own updates, the jGfV best spring award 2023 ceremony (more on p.4), presentations by the five “student representative” candidates, presentations by the jGfV lab rotation scholarship awardees Luca Schelle, Nele Brinkmann, Lydia Riepler and Sarah Prallet and our jGfV science slam. For the science slam, we had very interesting, video-recorded pitches and congratulate Eva Müller (Essen), Janina Conradi (Hamburg) and André Gömer (Bochum) for winning our cool awards (more on p. 28): :



We also enjoyed the annual meeting because it gave us the opportunity to hold our 2nd jGfV board meeting. Unfortunately, Philipp O. and Florian were absent.



Finally, during the general assembly, the young PI virology faculty was confirmed and is thus an official working group of the jGfV.

After the annual meeting, we conducted the online voting for the new “student representatives”. Thank you very much for your active participation! The voting ended on 04/21/23 with 145 votes, and we would like to welcome Nele Villabruna and Maximilian Kelch to the jGfV board:



With this vote we have to say goodbye to Sriram and Philipp. We would like to express our deepest gratitude for initiating and shaping the jGfV, for all your input, efforts, suggestions and commitment! We wish you both all the best for the future and hope you'll stay connected to the jGfV!





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR jGfV BEST SPRING PAPER 2023 AWARDEES

**Samuel Osanyinlusi**

*“Human Cytomegalovirus pUL11, a CD45 Ligand, Disrupts CD4 T Cell Control of Viral Spread in Epithelial Cells”*

(mBio, November 2022)



**Rayhane Nchioua**

*“Strong attenuation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 and increased replication of the BA.5 subvariant in human cardiomyocytes”*

(Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy , December 2022)

**Jil Schrader**

*“Epidermal growth factor receptor modulates hepatitis E virus entry in human hepatocytes”*

(Hepatology, February 2023)



Samuel



Rayhane

Jil



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR jGFV LABROTATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

April 2022



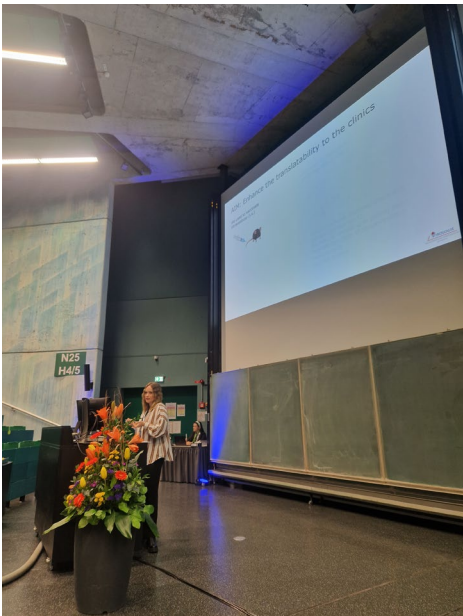
Luca Schelle, LMU Munich

October 2022

Nele Brinkmann  
BNITM Hamburg  
(report on p. X)

Lydia Riepler  
University of Innsbruck

Sarah Prallet  
CIID Heidelberg



April 2023

Henning Jacobsen, HZI Braunschweig



## **Application open for young PI's to join the ACHIEVE board**

Would you like to be an active part of the ACHIEVE Academy? ACHIEVE is a working group of the jGfV that focuses on students to postdocs from the life sciences, human and veterinary medicine. ACHIEVE wants to inspire students of life sciences, human and veterinary medicine for virology. Furthermore, ACHIEVE wants to help young virologists to advance professionally in their field. In addition to tailor-made workshops, we now offer a monthly "how to..." methods seminar and plan to launch a mentoring program in 2024.

If you are interested in participating in these activities as board member, please send your CV (1 page) and a short letter of motivation as combined PDF to [achieve@g-f-v.org](mailto:achieve@g-f-v.org). We highly encourage young PI's (group leaders, Junior Professors...) to apply as board member until **05/15/2023**.

# Report

## GfV workshop „Respiratory viral infections“

*Nathalie Heinen, Department of Molecular & Medical Virology, Bochum*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, the 7<sup>th</sup> Workshop covering the topic “Respiratory viral infections” was organized by the GfV. Prof. Ralf Bartenschlager introduced the meeting with an important reminder: “We need a proper scientific foundation...” which was the starting point for organizing this workshop series in 2020. The workshop started with Prof. Bartenschlager as chair who introduced the first talk of Dr. Sibylle Haid (Twincore, Hannover). She presented host determinants for RSV infections that were identified by an Exome-wide association study. Especially the SNP TMEM259 (Membralin) was underrepresented in severe RSV cases, supported by increased infection and apoptotic events upon TMEM259 silencing *in vitro*. In the second part of her talk, she demonstrated the suitability of human airway epithelial cell cultures to study RSV.

Transcriptomic analysis revealed low expression of type I and III IFNs in these cell cultures and stable viral loads over a week of RSV infection. In the future, her group plans to combine the findings of both projects. The next talk was given by Dr. Johannes Langedijk (Janssen Vaccines & Prevention, Leiden), who introduced the role of prefusion stabilized glycoproteins in vaccine design. Right in the beginning, he brought the attention to one of his main messages: stability is what you need, with the ultimate goal to overcome protein instability for successful vaccination design. He pointed out that vaccines encoding prefusion proteins are general approaches for vaccine designs and that the introduction of stabilizing prolines in prefusion proteins is widely used to develop optimized vaccines. He presented the application of a stabilized prefusion design using the examples of RSV and SARS-CoV-2, with stabilizing prolines in the hinge region. Moreover, he presented several design solutions involved in modern vaccine development, including molecular dynamics, protein



stability calculation and AI/Machine learning. The following talk was given by Dr. Géraldine Engels (University Hospital Würzburg, Würzburg). She introduced the clinical picture and burden of RSV in Germany. To date, there is no possibility for predicting the clinical course upon RSV infection in children, and therapy mostly includes supportive measures. She presented new RSV vaccines for active maternal vaccination in pregnancy as a new prophylactic strategy for protection of infants against severe RSV infections from birth on through the first months of life. The last talk during the first half was given by Prof. Martin Beer (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Riems), who presented the current situation of avian influenza outbreaks. One of the major problems is that more and more wild birds are infected, and changes in the virus enabled replication in duck species. Especially the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b is becoming a global issue, with the new genetic variability leading to record numbers of deaths amongst the avian population. To date, the experimental zoonotic transmission to pigs could not be detected, even with high dose infections, and only single spillover events of zoonotic

transmission to humans were reported with first alarming reports about a potential H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b death associated in an 11-year-old girl. *Authors note: After the workshop, news agencies have reported that the girl was infected with an endemic H5 clade 2.3.2.1c, which has circulated in Cambodia among birds and poultry for many years and has sporadically caused infections in people.*

After the break, the second part of the workshop was introduced by Prof. Klaus Überla. Prof. Leif Erik Sander (Charité, Universitätsmedizin Berlin) presented innate immune responses to respiratory viral infections. He showed pre-activated innate immunity factors in the upper airways of children that contribute to the protection against severe COVID-19. Additionally, he elucidated the role of CD163-expressing macrophages during COVID-19 acute respiratory distress syndrome, which supported a profibrotic phenotype in these patients. These monocyte-derived macrophages were similar in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with macrophages from both conditions sharing the profibrotic phenotype.

Following, Prof. Reinhold Förster (Medical School Hannover) presented data on inhalable vaccination against respiratory infections with a MVA-vector vaccine candidate. Applying an MVA-SARS-CoV-2-S prime-boost vaccination scheme to hamsters, induced strong T cell responses in the lung and high titers of neutralizing antibodies in serum of the animals. The application method is especially important, as only an intranasal boost, but not an intramuscular boost resulted in effective protection from COVID-19 in hamsters. Tests in humans revealed that inhalation works reliably and is well-tolerated, with the need for only low doses of MVA-SARS-ST. Last but not least, Prof. Florian Krammer (Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, New York) introduced broadly protective vaccines against influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2. The influenza vaccine needs to be updated every year due to antigenic drifts, but extensive research is conducted to develop a universal influenza virus vaccine, including ongoing studies on vaccines using different parts of the influenza virus (e.g. HA stalk, HA RBS, internal proteins) and different

platforms (nanoparticles, recombinant proteins, AAVs, mRNA). As frequent changes in the spike protein are also observed for SARS-CoV-2, leading to new circulating variants, efforts are also ongoing to generate a protective pan-Coronavirus vaccine.

The workshop was closed after intensive discussions. We would like to thank all speakers and organizers for this great event.

## Announcement of the “How to...” lecture series

Have you ever wondered how to do a specific method in the lab or do you like to learn from other scientist’s hands-on experience?

Maybe you are not in a lab yet but interested in getting an overview about the important classical and hot new methods in virology?

In both cases, the “How to...” lecture series is for you.

In this talk series, our method experts will give you an overview about the ins and outs of an experimental technique. They walk you through the protocol step-by-step and you’ll be able to discuss your questions with equally interested peers. Maybe you even get some helpful tips to improve your research or expand your experimental portfolio!

If you are interested, please register for the free lecture series [here](#) or via the QR code.



### Always on Tuesdays 12-12.45 pm:

Date	Speaker	Topic: „How to...”
07.02.2023	Jochen Wettengel	... clone smart, select reporter genes, and use Snapgene
07.03.2023	Lennart Köpke	... use different tools to make stable cell lines
04.04.2023	Jun-Gen Hu	... mutate viruses successfully
06.06.2023	Annett Ziegler	... generate high quality flow cytometry data and do FlowJo analysis
04.07.2023	Daniel Todt lab: tbd	... apply the right statistical methods
01.08.2023	Isabelle Reichert	... make beautiful microscopy images for advanced analysis
05.09.2023	Florian Pfaff & Sten Calvelage	... generate and analyze next generation sequencing data
10.10.2023	Andreas Walker	... get the most out of MinION sequencing

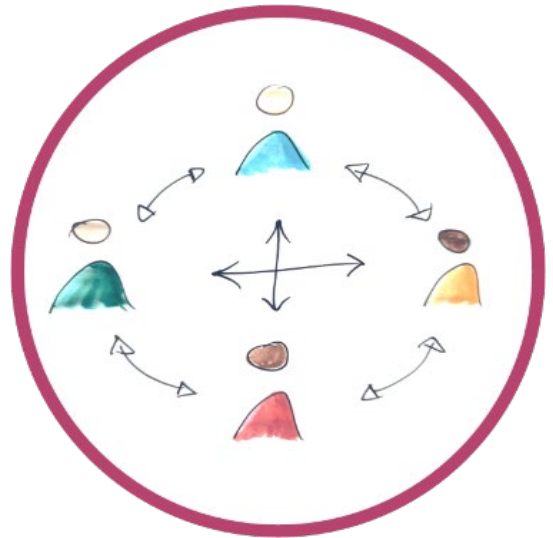


## First Intensive Workshop "Peer Coaching" of the Young PI Faculty

*Nadine Biedenkopf, University of Marburg*

Even before the official confirmation of the newly established Young PI Faculty at this year's annual meeting of the GfV in Ulm, a first online intensive training on "Peer Coaching" was offered on March 24th with the support of the DZIF Academy. This method makes it possible to systematically reflect on concrete problems and practical cases with the help of other participants and to develop solutions for everyday professional life. This type of consultation is particularly effective with "peers" in a similar professional position and thus with similar problems. During this intensive 3-hour coaching, 7 young PIs were accompanied by a professional coach (Robert Erlinghagen, mind:shaker), so that after a theoretical introduction to the method of peer consulting, cases from the participants could be discussed directly "hands-on". The goal is to establish regular peer coaching among the young PIs.

If you are interested in a regular peer coaching exchange, please send an email to [youngpi@g-f-v.org](mailto:youngpi@g-f-v.org) or [nadine.biedenkopf@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:nadine.biedenkopf@staff.uni-marburg.de)



# Online-Weiterbildungszirkel

des jGfV-Arbeitskreises  
„Klinisch-virologische Forschung“

## Inhalt und Ziele

- Vorträge zu Themen der diagnostischen und klinischen Virologie
- Einblick in die verschiedenen universitären und außeruniversitären Tätigkeitsfelder
- Diskussionen zu aktuellen Themen
- Vernetzung unter jungen klinischen Virologinnen und Virologen
- Vorbereitung auf die Facharztprüfung

## Wer:

Alle Ärztinnen/Ärzte und Fachvirologinnen/Fachvirologen in Weiterbildung (und auch darüber hinaus)

## Wann:

Jeden ersten Freitag des Monats um 10:00 Uhr

## Wo:

Online-Veranstaltung (Zoom)

## Weitere Infos und Anmeldung unter:

<https://clinviro.g-f-v.org/online-education-circle/>

## 4th ACHIEVE Spring School “ViReady”

*Melina Vallbracht, CIID, Heidelberg*

“ViReady”, steady, go! Aiming to inspire young scientists and students for virology and help kickstarting their career in this field, the 4<sup>th</sup> ACHIEVE spring school was organized and held from the 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of March. The workshop took place in beautiful Ulm, right before the annual GfV meeting. 30 talented medical, veterinary and lifescience students as well as physicians in training and first year PhDs got the chance to participate in our workshop and, at the same time, won a scholarship to attend the annual GfV meeting – a great opportunity for our attendees to put into practice what they had just learned!

First and foremost, the ACHIEVE team would like to thank the **GfV, Roche, the German Research Platform for Zoonoses, the DKFZ** and the **CRC 1279** for their generous support, without which the workshop would not have been possible. Another special thanks goes to **Konstantin Sparrer** from Ulm University Medical Center for his great organizational help!

On 27<sup>th</sup> of March, the workshop was opened with an icebreaker game to warm-up and get to know each other: Different viruses had to find their “disease partners” and *vice versa*. This was the first and probably the last time in our lives that we heard phrases like “Ah, Norovirus, nice to finally meet you, I’m...!” (I guess you know what followed). This small exercise definitely broke the ice and the participants found their matches remarkably fast so that we could dive straight into our first session on “Science – stories to inspire”. We were very excited and honored to have four top class virologists sharing their stories and experiences. The first of three fascinating talks was given by **Christian Münz** from the University of Zürich, who shared his work on the association between EBV and MS risk addressing the question “Is Epstein-Barr virus infection a prerequisite for multiple sclerosis development?”. Afterwards, we had **Stephan Urban** from the University Hospital Heidelberg, joining us virtually, and sharing his success story on the discovery and development of Hepcludex, the first specific agent against hepatitis D virus.



Importantly, he not only talked about the “ups” but also very honestly and authentically about the “downs” of his journey through science, encouraging everyone to stay motivated despite any major setbacks one might experience. The session continued with an exciting talk by **Frank Kirchhoff** and **Jan Münch** from the University Ulm, who jointly explained how the human peptidome can be exploited to discover antiviral agents. The experienced duo gave fascinating insights into their discovery and optimization of several (!) inhibitors of HIV-1 and other viruses. They also shared with us an exciting story about how results can turn out to be the exact opposite of what we expected. Thus, by screening for HIV-1 inhibitors they also discovered amyloid fibrils in semen, that boost HIV-1 infection and might play a role in the sperm quality-control.

After this inspiring first session by top class scientists who have already made it through the ‘academic jungle’ and found their professional satisfaction, we wanted to give our younger attendees an overview about the different career options in virology. Already in the

starting block and warmed up, Jan Münch gave an inspiring pitch on career paths in academia and encouraged the attendees to engage passionately with their careers. Afterwards, we had **Sebastian Tischer** from Roche Diagnostics GmbH, navigating us through the many different industry positions – from bench scientist to communication manager. After his talk everyone was familiar with all interesting aspects of each individual position. Afterwards, our ACHIEVE speaker **Corinna Pietsch** from Leipzig University Hospital, gave an excellent overview about the career options in diagnostics, an important and very versatile area.

During a refreshing lunch break the participants had the opportunity to network and talk to the experts at dedicated “topic-tables” before we went on with another “big” topic: “Science – the big picture”. A nationwide rail strike did lead to some small changes in our program, but did not stop Sandra Junglen from joining us virtually and inspiring us with her presentation on “Arbovirus diversity in tropical biodiversity hotspots and influence of land use change on arbovirus emergence”.

Sandra Junglen pointed out that land-use changes can have a profound effects on biodiversity and emerging diseases. After her talk everyone was familiar with the “dilution effect hypothesis” which assumes that high species diversity limits disease spread by diluting the density of susceptible hosts for the respective pathogen, or in other words: “Biodiversity losses could worsen epidemics”. After these alarming results it was reassuring to hear that scientific societies like the GfV exist that promote virology in all disciplines. ACHIEVE speaker **Stephanie Pfänder** from Ruhr-Universität Bochum gave a great overview about different scientific societies and pointed out how they can be used to foster your career. We are grateful that we could grant every participant a one year GfV membership which offers a great range of important benefits. Just to give a few keypoints Stephanie mentioned: networking, research awards, (= visibility!), travel expenses, discounts and newsletters! Next, we had a very insightful pitch by our ACHIEVE board member **Hanna-Mari Baldauf** from the LMU Munich about “science communication”. She pointed out the importance of first

thinking about to whom you want to address your science and phrase it accordingly. (On a side note: At the GfV conference we noticed that Hanna-Mari’s lecture has borne fruit – some of our attendees were courageous enough to approach Sandra Ciesek and Christian Drosten to discuss their research with them - the photographic proof is attached! 😊.) After a lively discussion on the potential benefits but also risks of science communication using social media it was the participants turn to practice and present their work in a 3 min pitch in our science slam competition. From many fantastic pitches we selected three winners: **Tuguldur Tumurbaatar**, who convinced the jury that “blood and babies”, two things that no one ever thought would go well together fit actually quite well and are worth to study since blood can reveal a lot about the state of health. **Janina Conradi**, who aims to find out why certain lipid droplets (disguised as emojis) are “cooler” than others and favored by HCV. Finally, **Eva Müller**, who definitely knows how to use memes properly, presented her work on the role of the lipid metabolism in reactivation of latent HIV.

Our three winners also got a 'wildcard' for the jGfV science slam competition and we are especially proud since two of them also won the jGfV science slam competition: Congratulations to Eva and Janina! The day was concluded with a relaxing and delicious dinner at the Gerberhaus in Ulm.

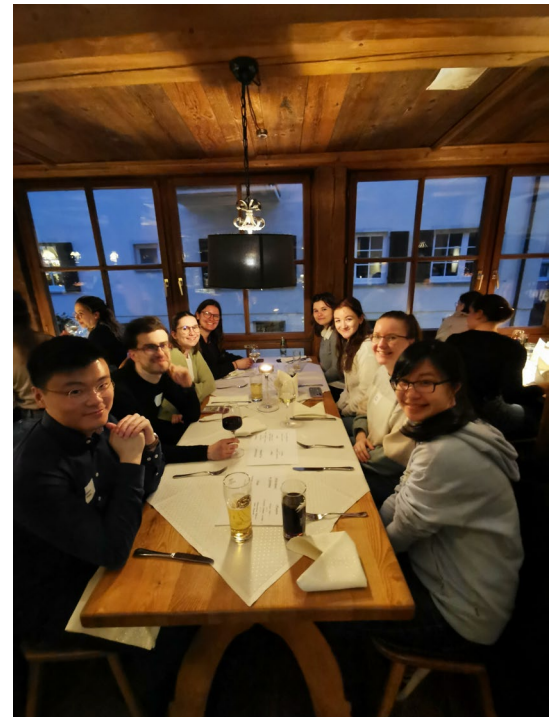
We were honored to have **Stephan Ludwig** opening our second workshop day with an engaging talk on "The path to success – From PhD/MD/Vet.Med to professorship". He shared some illuminating insights on his own path through the profession and particularly emphasized that being an academic scientist is a profession where there will always be more work than you can actually do and one should be truly passionate about it in order to experience happiness and success. The workshop continued with a very important and complex topic: "One Health". To this end, we were very excited and honored to have an expert team from the German Research Platform for Zoonosis on board: **Dana Thal** from the Friedrich-Loeffler Institut, Greifswald-Insel Riems, and **Friederike Jansen** from the University of Münster, who joined virtually. In an interactive group

work they explained the concept (or rather "attitude towards life" as we learned from Thomas Mettenleiter at the GfV meeting) of "One Health", which was also the focus of this year's GfV meeting and thus a great preparation for our participants. Our final session under the motto "Science - the big picture" was heralded by **Johannes Ponge** from the University of Münster, an expert in infectious disease modeling. After Johannes' talk everyone could tell "what R tells us". (On a personal note: No one has ever explained maths in a more exciting and compelling way.) Moreover, he presented some work on an agent-based social simulation that imitates life-like social interactions providing a basis for epidemics intervention assessment. Overall, his talk provided excellent insights into the diversity of factors that can influence the cause of a disease outbreak highlighting the importance of "One Health". Finally, **Barbara Schmidt** from Regensburg University shared some exciting results of her work on "Endemic Zoonosis - Borna Viruses". We heard about the unexpected discovery of the first case of Borna virus infection in humans causing



severe encephalitis and more recent findings that, after many years of debate, finally provide solid evidence that classical BoDV-1 can infect humans. This represented an excellent example of how animal health is tightly linked to human health. The talks of this final session illustrated extremely well what “One Health” means and how important it is. Fully equipped with motivation, a tasty lunch package and ready to communicate their research, the participants then headed off to the big GfV congress – just next door!

We, the **ACHIEVE team**, really enjoyed the two workshop days and would like to thank all participants and speakers again for their contributions and the great time together. Finally, we wish all attendants the best for their future career and we hope to stay in contact.





Janina Conradi



Tuguldur Tumurbaatar



Eva Müller







Interesse an der **klinischen und diagnostischen Virologie** als Naturwissenschaftler\*in oder Veterinärmediziner\*in?

Dann wäre das **Zertifikat für Medizinische Virologie und Infektionsprävention („Medizinische/r Fachvirologe/in)** der GfV vielleicht das Richtige?

### **VORTEILE**

- Qualifikation zur technischen Leitung eines Labors der medizinischen Virologie
- ggf. medizinische Freigabe technisch validierter Ergebnisse der Virusdiagnostik

Weitere Informationen unter:

<https://g-f-v.org/zertifikat-fachvirologe/>



## jGfV labrotation scholarship report

Nele Brinkmann, BNITM Hamburg

During my lab rotation in the research group of Dr. Thomas Strecker at the Institute of Virology of the Philipps University Marburg, I got the opportunity to gain further insights into the mechanism underlying virus entry and release of Lassa virus (LASV) in cells of the natural host, *Mastomys natalensis*. Working in the context with authentic LASV does not only require a BSL-4 containment but also makes distinguishing between different steps in the viral life cycle challenging. Since my hosting laboratory has a well-established BSL-2 surrogate system to study LASV host cell entry using a recombinant, replication-competent vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) expressing the LASV envelope spike glycoprotein, I was able to characterize exclusively the entry process of LASV under BSL-2 conditions. Besides learning how to handle these viruses, I obtained further knowledge in the preparation and the analysis of samples using confocal laser scanning microscopy. Using this method, I was able to demonstrate

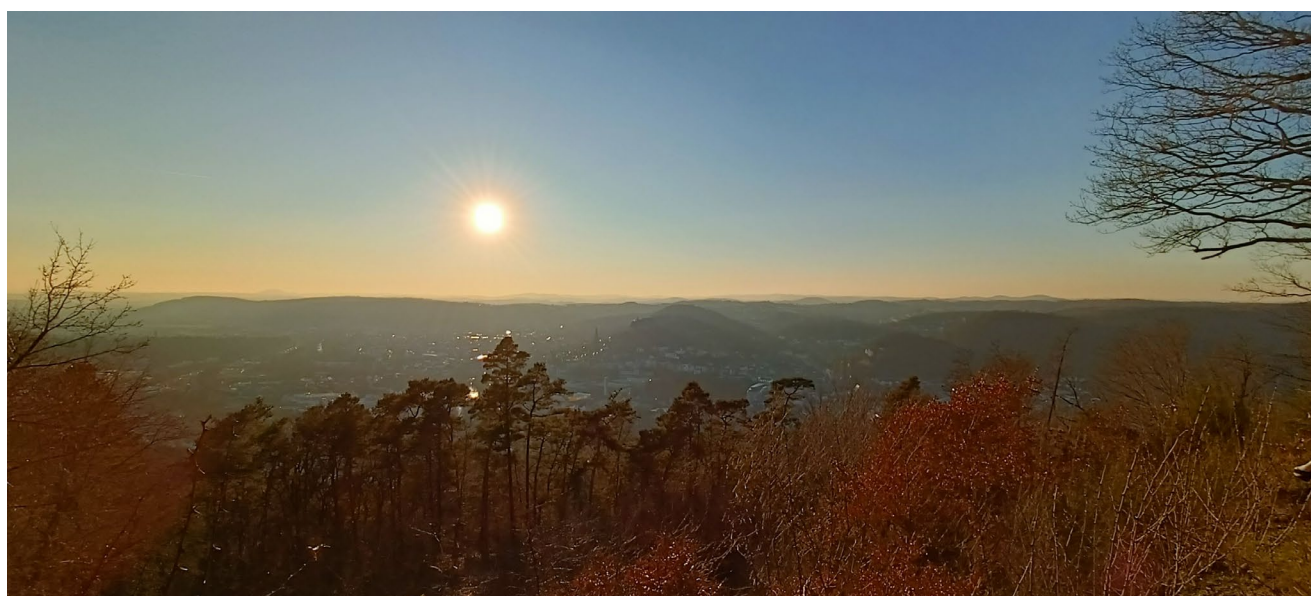
that *Mastomys natalensis*-derived epithelial cells were susceptible for LASV glycoprotein-mediated infection. Growth kinetic analysis further revealed the productive replication of VSV-LASV GP in the *Mastomys* cell lines.

During regular working group meetings, I got new ideas and thoughts on how to validate virus entry of authentic LASV under BSL-4 conditions and how to evaluate the results with regard to sequence homology of the LASV glycoprotein. We also came up with the idea to determine the LASV receptor expression on different target cells and discussed potential future collaborative experiments.

Transfection-based assays to study LASV release in *Mastomys*-derived cell lines were difficult due to the observed insufficient transfection efficiency in these cells. Despite this challenge, I was able to learn new methods with regard to protein quantification.

In conclusion, I learned to use novel state-of-the-art technologies and how to implement them into my PhD project.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to advance my technical skills and expand my research question. I would like to sincerely thank the group of Dr. Thomas Strecker for the great supervision and the jGfV for making my stay possible by awarding me with the lab rotation scholarship.



# International DEEP-DV Summer School

## High resolution virology: imaging – omics – data science

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the CSSB, Hamburg, Germany

### Speakers

Anna Cliffe • Charlottesville, VA, USA

Urs Greber • Zurich, Switzerland

Kay Grünewald • Hamburg, Germany

Torben Heick Jensen • Aarhus, Denmark

Denes Hnisz • Berlin, Germany

Fan Liu • Berlin, Germany

Mathias Munschauer • Würzburg, Germany

Thomas Quail • Heidelberg, Germany

Maya Topf • Hamburg, Germany

Matthew D. Weitzman • Philadelphia, PA, USA

- ✓ Imaging and integrative virology
- ✓ Transcription and nuclear compartments

- ✓ Chromatin and gene expression
- ✓ Omics
- ✓ Viral networks

### VENUE



- Every participant is encouraged to submit an abstract. Selected abstracts will be presented as short presentations or flash talks.
- All participants will have the opportunity to present a poster.
- The conference is free of charge.
- The event is limited to 120 participants.

**Registration & Abstract Deadline: 31.05.2023**



<https://deep-dv.org/wp/international-deep-dv-summer-school-2023/>



## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology**

*Helene Hoenigsperger & Maximilian Hirschenberger, University Medical Center, Ulm*

At the end of March this year, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology took place in Ulm. The event, chaired by Prof. Stamminger, brought over 800 scientists together, who were thrilled to reconnect in-person after the past 3 years of no or only hybrid meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the main conference, the young Society for Virology (jGfV) organized a workshop for junior scientists to network and connect. As part of the "Science – Stories to inspire" lecture series, Prof. Frank Kirchhoff and Prof. Jan Münch presented the history and breakthroughs of anti-viral peptides. Additionally, Prof. Stephan Urban (Heidelberg) shared his insights on the challenging journey of discovering and clinically developing Myrcludex B, a peptidic hepatitis D-virus inhibitor (now known as Hepcludex®).

The symposium was opened with welcoming speeches by Prof. Thomas Stamminger (Vice-president

of the GfV), Prof. Michael Weber (President of the University of Ulm), Prof. Thomas Wirth (Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Ulm) and Prof. Ralf Bartenschlager (President of the GfV). Prof. Marion Koopmans, Prof. Marc Eloit and Prof. Thomas Mettenleiter initiated the first plenary session about the importance of pandemic preparedness, especially in light of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Following workshops on the first day of the conference broadened the focus to other viruses, regarding their receptors and entry as well as their structure, assembly and egress. Both innate immunity sessions established the relevance of the interferon system and inflammasomes as a broad anti-viral defense pathway. Simultaneously the speakers from the "Diagnostic methods and tools" session showed new and improved methods to monitor SARS-CoV-2 and monkey pox in patient samples, whereas the clinical virology workshop presented patient data in regards of Hepatitis B and E as well as SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The second day of the congress was headed by a plenary session shared with the German society of immunology. The session focused on the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants and the corresponding immune response to infection and vaccination, and featured lectures by Prof. Michel Nussenzweig, Prof. Birgit Sawitzki and Prof. Kei Sato. Relating to the plenary talks, the adaptive immunity workshops addressed, among other things, the immune escape of viruses. During the viral replication strategy sessions, the speakers pointed out how viruses exploit host factors like lipid organelles for their own replication. On the other hand, the viral vector and gene therapy session showed how some viruses can be leveraged to enhance the immune system against pathogens like HPV and Lassa virus. The latter virus was also topic in the Emerging viruses and zoonosis workshop, which illustrated the concern of transmission of zoonotic viruses between animal and human, and how the human immune system handles those.

The third day of the GfV emphasized the exciting research of young virologists. During the plenary

session, Dr. Maria Rosenthal, Prof. Konstantin Sparrer and Dr. Marzi shared their findings and the complexity of specific proteins and host pathways. Afterwards, the antiviral therapy and resistance session drew attention to novel broad-spectrum and host-directed antivirals, but also new targets against Zika virus and SARS-CoV-2 were discussed. Latter virus had its own workshop, where the presenters explained how SARS-CoV-2 is restricted by the immune system, but at the same time evades detection and hijacks host cell factors for replication. In parallel, host cell factors and viral modulation was discussed in a separate session, focusing on various viruses like HCMV, HCV and Chikungunya virus. The epidemiology workshop enlightened the evaluation of (emerging) viruses from various sources, ranging from patient samples and mosquitoes to wastewater. The role of specific adenoviral and KSHV's proteins during infection and the consequences to their host interaction partners was discussed in the viral transformation and oncogenesis session.



In the last plenary session Prof. Shibo Jiang, Prof. Erik Procko and Prof. Florian Schmidt examined the potential of targeting viral entry via Pan-CoV Entry Inhibitors, optimized host decoys and camelid nanobodies. Closing this day was the social evening at the Maritim Hotel Ulm with dinner and live music, enabling everybody to unwind and network in a relaxed environment.

In the last plenary session of the conference Prof. Noam Stern-Ginossar, Prof. Lars Dölken and Prof. John Briggs revealed intriguing insights into cutting-edge research about the complex nature of viruses and their interactions with the host cells. The second “Host cell factors and viral modulation” workshop presented insights on how viral proteins from DNA viruses such as HCMV and RNA viruses such as influenza, interact with host proteins to modulate immune responses and host protein turnover, along with novel methods for accurately analyzing binding patterns of DNA viruses. During the lecture on vaccination, the discussion centered around MVA-based and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, and a new needle-free vaccination

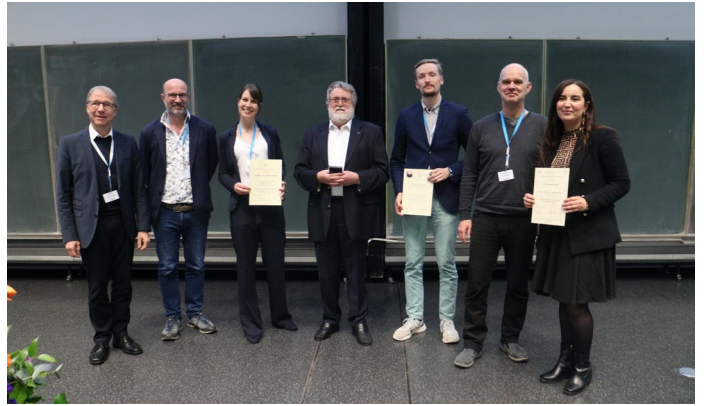
platform was introduced. The speakers of the “viral pathogenesis and persistence” session presented novel models to monitor latent HIV-1 and hepatitis D virus and discussed the pathogenesis of viruses like Petits Ruminants virus, borna disease virus-1 and merkel cell polyomavirus.

At the Industrial Symposia, GlaxoSmithKline provided insights into the recombinant zoster vaccine, and the differences of RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Moderna delved into respiratory viruses, their seasonal patterns, immunity, and vaccination strategies against endemic coronaviruses.

Some of the excellent talks and poster presentations given by students and young group leaders were honored during the young GfV (jGfV) session. The best spring paper awards were given to Rayhane Nchioua, Jil Schrader and Samuel Osanyinlusi and several jGfV lab rotation scholarship awardees were able to briefly present their experiences from their lab visits.

Finally, an entertaining science slam competition took place after which the most eloquent slammers were awarded the science slam prize: Janina Conradi, Eva Müller, André Gömer. Among more than 400 posters presented at the conference, Ute Andrea Westerkamp, Jil Alexandra Schrader, and Benjamin Ambrosy were awarded for their exceptional work with the poster prize. The award ceremony highlighted the remarkable achievements of outstanding scientists in the field of virology. The GfV Award 2023 for outstanding work in natural sciences and medical research during the PhD was received by Dr. Rüdiger Groß from Ulm. The second awardee of the night, also from Ulm, Dr. Rayhane Nchioua, was awarded the DZIF Award 2023 for the best PhD in the field of virology. Jun.-Prof. Dr. Stephanie Pfänder from Bochum received the Loeffler-Frosch-Award of the GfV for her excellent publications in virology in the past years. The final award, the Loeffler-Frosch-medal was received by Prof. Dr. Thomas Mertens for his everlasting contribution and engagement in the field of virology. Finally, Prof. Thomas Stamminger

emphasized the great outcome of this year's congress and handed over to Dr. Irene Görzer from Vienna, Austria, where the Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology will take place from March 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.







If you have attended a jGfV-related workshop / conference / seminar and want to write a report about it, please email to [jGfV@G-f-V.org](mailto:jGfV@G-f-V.org).

# ...write a successful proposal



Dr. Neela Enke  
Biologist, Trainer &  
Coach

Dr Neela Enke holds a doctorate in Biology and has over 10 years experience as a researcher and team leader in several European research institutions. She is a coach for research and administrative staff, professors, team leaders and teams.

The competency to write convincing proposals becomes more and more important for researchers. The reason: Throughout the last decades the percentage of competitive funding for scientific projects and institutions has increased in comparison to direct funding by the state. The idea behind it is ultimately, that competition creates more excellent and innovative science. Even though a lot of the German funding organizations (e.g., DFG, Volkswagenstiftung, the ministries) are financed by tax money, scientists and research organizations have to compete for these funds. So, if you are good at bringing in third party funding, you are attractive for research organizations. Other aspects are, that by writing your own proposals you can do the research you like, build your own scientific profile, and achieve academic independence – all of which are important success factors on your way to a professorship. Now that you know the WHY, what about the HOW?

## **Structure, structure, structure**

A well-structured proposal goes a long way. A concise form of expression is key. Make it as easy as possible for the reviewers to read and understand your proposal. Reviewers rarely have time to spend days reading a proposal, so all

As a trainer she offers workshops on career development in research, leadership, as well as diversity and conflict management. She is a trained mediator with a focus on conflicts in research organisations.

relevant information should be accessible at first glance.

Base your proposal on a clear and well-thought-out hypothesis or question that the project can either confirm or refute. This gives your proposal an inner logic and clarity in its objective. It makes it not only easier to write but also easier to read. To flesh out the research question/focus, the following questions can help:

- What problem do I want to solve? Which phenomenon do I want to investigate?
- Which question do I not want to answer?
- What preliminary work have I already done?
- What results do I expect?
- What procedure/methods can answer my question?

Based on the research question and the methodology design your work plan. What tasks must be done? How can they be clustered into work packages? How much time will each work package take? To finish the methodology section, describe the work packages and visualize your work plan (e.g., as a Gantt chart).

Your budget can be derived from and justified based on the work plan. Do not make your project cheaper than it is. By all means, don't be too modest. I have seen proposals with great scientific value rejected because the reviewers were wondering how the applicants would make the project work with so few funding. Also, don't make it more expensive than necessary. The reviewers check *appropriateness*.



Once you have set up your research question and work plan, you can start on the other parts of the proposal: Introduction, state-of-the-art section, goals, and impact. Change your perspective and try to put yourself in the reviewers' shoes: What do they need to understand my project? In the state-of-the-art section make sure to define the knowledge gap that your project will fill. Orient the impact part on the goals/vision/philosophy of the funding organization and funding line: With a DFG proposal the impact might be on the scientific community, with European Funding it is often the impact on society and economy, for BMBF projects think about how policy makers could profit from your research.

### **The abstract is key!**

Last write the abstract. It is a key element of your proposal. Staff members of the funding organization and members of the decision making committees will read it and use the abstract for their orientation to decide about your proposal. The peer reviewers who read the whole proposal only give a recommendation! Committee members will also have access to the

reviewer's assessments.

Take time to compose the abstract thoroughly. Formulate 1-2 sentences on each of the following points:

1. Context: Connection to “real” world. How does your project tie into everyday problems (e.g., a thousand people die of this illness every day, freshwater is one of the most valuable natural resources, the bond between mother and child is thought to be a strong one)
2. Problem definition: The gap your research will fill.
3. Objective of your proposal.
4. Methodology.
5. Relevance and impact.

### **Typical reasons for rejection...and success factors**

Common reasons to reject a proposal are doubtful feasibility, logical flaws, when the relevance remains unclear or when there is an obvious misfit between the applicant's expertise and the project topic.

All of this can be avoided if you take care in composing your proposal:

Nothing is more frustrating than a good idea that fails because of sloppy execution...so check these boxes:

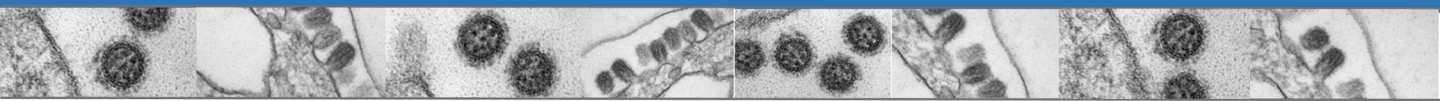
- Good connection to the funding scheme
- Concise research question
- Methods fitting the research question
- Applicant suiting the project
- Clear structure & comprehensibility
- Appropriateness of work plan & budget
- Convincing relevance and impact

### **Last but not least: Do not give up!**

Since funding rates are declining or stagnating, most scientists will have to expect a negative decision sooner or later. A negative decision does not necessarily mean that your project is bad. Don't be discouraged; you have already invested far too much work. Put the application in the corner for a few days after rejection to build up your bruised ego. Then go back to improving the application with fresh thoughts. If you have received the reviewer's comments, be sure to use this to optimize your (next) application.

If you have topics for the „how to“ section we have not yet touched, please email to [jGfV@GfV.org](mailto:jGfV@GfV.org).

## SAVE THE DATE



**2<sup>nd</sup> workshop of the GfV study group ,One Health and Zoonotic Viruses‘**  
**September 2023, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> – Goslar (Germany)**

### New and re-emerging zoonotic diseases

#### Keynote Speakers

**Prof. Seema Lakdawala**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, PA, USA

**Prof. Martin Beer**, Friedrich-Löffler-Institute, Riems, Germany

**Prof. Friedemann Weber**, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany

**Dr. Allison Groseth**, Friedrich-Löffler-Institute, Riems, Germany



<https://www.g-f-v.org/>

Chairs: Gisa Gerold (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation), Yvonne Börgeling (University of Münster)  
and Lisa Oestereich (Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine)

[onehealth@g-f-v.org](mailto:onehealth@g-f-v.org)

# Interview with Dr. Dörthe Masemann



Dr. Dörthe Masemann,  
Managing Director of  
MExLab ExperiMINTe

Dr. Dörthe Masemann completed her PhD at the Institute of Virology, Münster, and continued her postdoctoral research on Oncolytic Viruses. From April 2021, she serves as the Managing Director of MExLab ExperiMINTe at the University of Münster, facilitating STEM Outreach for school students.

## **Interviewers:**

*Sriram Kumar, PhD Student, Institute of Virology, Munster*

*Dr. Philipp Ostermann, Postdoc, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York*

## **QUESTIONS:**

### **1. What inspired you to pursue virology research for your PhD and postdoc?**

**A.** *During my Bachelor's studies at the university, virology as part of the microbiology lecture fascinated me and I signed up for my Bachelor's thesis at the Institute of Virology. I was stunned by how such small particles, often consisting only of genetic material and an envelope, could efficiently "paralyze" an entire organism and manipulate the cellular machinery of their host organism. An evolutionary race between host and virus at a very small molecular scale. During my PhD and postdoc time at the Institute of Molecular Virology in Münster, I investigated oncolytic influenza A viruses. The idea of genetically modifying viruses in a way so that they no longer cause disease but can be used as a "tool" against cancer cells, is still very innovative and straight forward in my opinion. I was very amazed by the interplay of immunological, virological, and oncological aspects.*

*The research field still fascinates me, especially the enormous plasticity of the immune system to react to external signals - whether from tumor cells or viruses.*

*Especially as a young scientist, I very much enjoyed the freedom of academic research and the chance to develop and prove or - unfortunately all too often - disprove my own hypotheses. This has always been a particular attraction of the work for me. The creative freedom to develop my own research ideas and to have a small contribution to the big picture. As pretentious as that may sound now.*

## **2. How did you find your niche as an early-career researcher, after your PhD?**

**A.** *I was very privileged in that my research topic developed very well during my PhD and many exciting new questions arose from it. At the end of my PhD, I had the feeling that things were just getting started and wanted to answer many more open questions. That's why I stayed at the Institute of Virology in Münster. At the very beginning, the topic I was working on was not one of the main topics at the institute, so I had to*

*establish a lot of new techniques and find a good network of cooperation partners. That was a big challenge, but it paid off in the long run and helped me in my personal development. Finding your own niche after the PhD is very difficult, especially if you don't change the lab, but a strong good network and constructive collaboration is worth its weight in gold and is inspiring. I got the chance to continue working within my research field on the aspects that interested me the most. This has motivated me a lot and given me the opportunity to settle in the field that fascinated me the most.*

## **3. What were the challenges you experienced in establishing yourself?**

**A.** *As an early career researcher you have to establish yourself, you have to successfully acquire external funding, but there is also a lot of organization and bureaucracy on the shoulders of young scientists, which doesn't necessarily make it easier to publish high-impact data at a reasonable frequency.*



*This is a big structural tension, the pressure is very high. Models such as the « Wissenschaftszeitgesetz » make it very difficult to establish oneself in the academic world as a young scientist in Germany, and short-term employment contracts hardly provide any financial security or long-term perspective. To withstand this pressure, you need a good self-confidence, have faith and a high commitment to your research. Personally, it has helped me a lot to exchange ideas with people who inspire me and with whom I enjoy working together constructively. Exchanging ideas with other junior scientists of the same level is very important and helps to reflect oneself better. It has been a challenging but also very fulfilling energizing time.*

#### **4. What inspired you to consider pursuing science in a different mode?**

**A.** *After a few years as a postdoc, I realized that I did not see my future in the classical academic career. This was actually a big personal dilemma because I really enjoyed working as a scientist and identified very much with my job.*

*It took some time to realize that the question "What do I want for my future career outside the classical academic career?" is not a question of failure, but a question that offers me great freedom to grow. I have always enjoyed working with young people as a lecturer in teaching. Science communication, networking and active dialogue about research has always been fun and suited me. I was keen to break the stereotype of the lone scientist and share my enthusiasm for research.*

*So, for me personally, it was a great opportunity to run an institution at the University of Münster that actively facilitates outreach in STEM disciplines for teenagers and young adults and provides insights into scientific research for society. I still really enjoy carrying my own fascination for natural sciences into the next generation and, together with my team, communicating STEM to young people in an application- and practice-oriented way. In the same way, it is great to support scientists in outreach activities. In times of growing skepticism towards science, it is an important task to promote constructive dialogue between research and society.*

**5. How is your current job at MExLab ExperiMINTe different from a traditional academic role?**

**A.** Although it may not seem so at first glance, there are many parallels between my tasks as managing director of a STEM learning site for young people and my role as an active scientist. One needs skills in strategic project management and especially in applying third-party funding. Here I benefit a lot from my experience as a young scientist.

What I really enjoy is learning about university management and university policy from a whole new perspective and gaining deeper insights into local and national educational processes. It is exciting to constantly reflect on scientific phenomena from the perspective of young people and to perceive them in dialogue outside of one's own "science bubble." This is really fun and refreshing.

**6. What are the rewarding and challenging aspects of your current role?**

**A.** What is challenging is the responsibility for financial and strategic management with

everything that comes with it. I'm still learning a lot. But that's also what makes the job exciting to me. Every day is different.

I find it rewarding to be free to initiate new projects that I enjoy. For example, we recently started a science project with refugee children with a group of great collaborators in quite a short time. In general, it's great to see how young people here simply enjoy learning and experiencing science, free from the pressure to perform. It always reminds me why I myself have chosen this career path and what fascinates me about science. It's a really positive working environment in which I enjoy working.

**7. What would be your advice for young researchers wanting to pursue science?**

**A.** Whether you want to stay in academic research or not, I think the key is to find a job that you have a passion for and that fits your character. The big question that I think you should continuously ask yourself is: what are my expectations from my job?

*For me personally, it is important to see a higher meaning behind what I do professionally. This motivates me to leave the house in the morning. But intrinsic motivation can be different for everyone. And it can also change over the years, because you don't remain static yourself either. That's why it helps to stay brave and to question yourself again and again.*

*My advice is: surround yourself with inspiring colleagues and good mentors who I encourage and don't compare yourself so much with others. Keep your curiosity. The scientific career offers an independent and creative environment to work on the research topics that fascinate you. This is a great privilege and freedom to enjoy.*

*Thank you very much, Dr. Dörthe Masemann, for this interview!*

# 21st Workshop "Cell Biology of Viral Infections"

## Cytoskeleton

October 18 - 20, 2023, Kloster Schöntal



**Chairs:** Gabrielle Vieyres, LIV  
Christian Sieben, HZI

### Confirmed speakers:

Michelle Peckham, University of Leeds

Florian Schur, ISTA

Franziska Lautenschläger, Saarland University

Katharina Scherer, Univ of Cambridge / Uni

Image credit: Laura Menke, [nanoinfection.org](https://nanoinfection.org)



# Job posts & Advertisements

## Conferences / Workshops / Seminars

In this section, we will post any job vacancies or workshops / conferences. If you are aware of any advertisements, please email to [jGfV@G-f-V.org](mailto:jGfV@G-f-V.org) or post them on SLACK.

11 May – 13 May 2023

31. Frühjahrstagung des Berufsverbandes der Ärzte für Mikrobiologie, Virologie und Infektionsepidemiologie (BÄMI)

Göttingen, Germany

<https://www.baemi.de/?page=Veranstaltung>

12 May – 13 May 2023

Infektio Update 2023

Berlin, Germany

<https://infektio-update.com/>

14 May – 18 May 2023

16. Nidovirus Symposium

Montreux, Switzerland

<https://www.nido2023.com/>

22 May – 27 May 2023

48th annual meeting on Retroviruses

Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA

[https://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings.aspx?meet=R  
ETRO&year=23](https://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings.aspx?meet=RETRO&year=23)

31 May – 02 June 2023 (on-site and digital)

Novel Concepts in Innate Immunity

Tübingen, Germany

<https://innate-immunity-conference.de/>

14 June – 17 June 2023

16. Kongress für Infektions-krankheiten und Tropenmedizin (KIT 2023)

Leipzig, Germany

<https://kit-kongresse.de/>

19 June – 23 June 2023

25<sup>th</sup> International KSHV Conference

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

<https://ksvirus.org/>

21 June 2023 (virtual; 5:00 pm) – new date

jGfV virology lecture series: CMV – from a molecular to a clinical point of views

by Prof. Dr. Melanie Brinkmann & PD Dr. Tina Ganzenmüller

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcuirpzwiE9LHAAE3h5--Ohl3fMEq-asb#/registration>

22 June – 23 June 2023

Symposium „Cell biology of emerging viral infections“

HZI Braunschweig

<http://www.nanoinfection.org/meetings>

26 June – 30 June 2023

Insect Models for Infection Biology

Roscoff, France

<https://cjm2-2023.sciencesconf.org/>

06 July – 08 July 2023

International DEEP DV Summer School High resolution virology: imaging omics data science

Hamburg, Germany

[https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DEEP-DV-Summer-School-2023\\_FlyerQR-Code.pdf](https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DEEP-DV-Summer-School-2023_FlyerQR-Code.pdf)

13 July 2023 (virtual; 5:00 pm)

jGfV virology lecture series: HIV – from a molecular to a clinical point of views

by Prof. Dr. Frank Kirchhoff & Prof. Dr. Christoph Stephan

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsfuyvrDluH91SSxUXb57OdDA1uh7P4Ouv>

30 August – 2 September 2023

Annual Conference of the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV)

Milano, Italy

<https://escv2023.org/>

06 September – 08 September 2023

DACH Epidemiologietagung 2023

Leipzig, Germany

<https://www.dvg.net/tagungen/termine/dach-epidemiologietagung-2023/>

06 September – 08 September 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> workshop “New and re-emerging zoonotic diseases”

Goslar, Germany

<https://onehealth.g-f-v.org/>

10 September – 13 September 2023

Annual Conference 2023 of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM)

Göttingen, Germany

<https://www.vaam-kongress.de/>

11 September – 13 September 2023

22<sup>nd</sup> workshop „Immunobiology of Viral Infections“

Bad Salzschlirf, Germany

17 September – 20 September 2023

9th ESWI Influenza Conference

Valencia, Spain

<https://www.eswiconference.org/>

18 September – 20 September 2023

75. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Hygiene und Mikrobiologie e.V.

Lübeck, Germany

<https://dghm-kongress.de/>

23 September – 26 September 2023

10th European Meeting on Viral Zoonoses

St. Raphaël, France

<https://escv.eu/portfolio-posts/10th-european-meeting-on-viral-zoonoses/>

25 September – 26 September 2023

DZIF annual meeting

Hanover, Germany

<https://www.dzif.de/en/event/dzif-annual-meeting-2023>

11 October – 12 October 2023

1<sup>st</sup> workshop “Young PI virology faculty“

Hannover, Germany

<https://youngpi.g-f-v.org/events/>

18 October – 20 October 2023

21<sup>st</sup> workshop “Cell Biology of Viral infections”

Kloster Schöntal, Germany

[http://cellviro.g-f-v.org/registration\\_abstracts/](http://cellviro.g-f-v.org/registration_abstracts/)

17 November – 21 November 2023

Facharztrepetitorium Medizinische Mikrobiologie, Virologie und Infektionsepidemiologie

Online Meeting

<https://www.dghm.org/facharztrepetitorium/>

29 November – 1 December 2023

Symposium “40 years of HIV science”

Institute Pasteur, Paris, France

[www.40yhivscience.conferences-pasteur.org](http://www.40yhivscience.conferences-pasteur.org)

4 December – 7 December 2023

RETROPATH workshop on retroviral pathogenesis

Trento, Italy

<https://www.retropath2023.org/>



**Open positions**

PhD Position

Herpesvirus research

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI),  
Greifswald-Insel Riems, Germany

<https://www.fli.de/de/karriere/stellenausschreibungen/einzelansicht/wissenschaftliche-mitarbeiterin-wissenschaftlicher-mitarbeiter-m-w-d-doktorandin-doktorand-im-institut-fuer-molekulare-virologie-und-zellbiologie/>

PhD Position

Research group “Cellular Virology”  
University Hospital Bonn, Bonn,  
Germany

<https://karriereamukb.de/offer/phd-student-position-in-infection-b/30a98636-c62e-467b-b382-827103747457>

Scientist Position

Recombinant bacteriophage research  
Institute of Microbiology of the  
German Armed Forces (IMB),  
Munich, Germany

<https://www.researchgate.net/job/992381-Recombinant-bacteriophage-research>

Scientist Position

Wastewater-based Surveillance for  
SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory  
pathogens

Robert Koch Institute, Berlin,  
Germany

[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Service/Stellen/Angebote/2023/059\\_23.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Service/Stellen/Angebote/2023/059_23.html)

Postdoctoral Position

RNA biology lab

Max Delbrück Center for Molecular  
Medicine, Berlin, Germany

<https://www.researchgate.net/job/992438-Wissenschaftlicher-Mitarbeiterin-Postdoc-m-f-d>

Postdoctoral Position

Research group “Molecular and  
Clinical Infection Biology” (Gerold  
laboratory)

Research Center for Emerging  
Infections and Zoonoses & the  
Department of Biochemistry,  
University of Veterinary Medicine  
Hannover, Germany

<https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Postdoc-position-Gerold-lab-2023.pdf>

Research Fellow

Role of EBV in MS  
Institute of Immunology &  
Immunotherapy  
Birmingham, UK

[Research Fellow at University of  
Birmingham \(jobs.ac.uk\)](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/jobs)

Postdoctoral Position

Preclinical Immunotherapy of Cancer  
University Hospital Duesseldorf,  
Düsseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen,  
Germany

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/job/12797900/postdoctoral-scientist-in-preclinical-immunotherapy-of-cancer/?LinkSource=PremiumListing>

Postdoctoral Position

Development of viral infection  
models of the brain for antiviral drug  
development

Helmholtz Zentrum München,  
Germany

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/job/780577/postdoc-for-development-of-viral-infection-models-of-the-brain-for-antiviral-drug-development-f-m-x/>

Postdoctoral Position

Innate immunity / Metainflammation  
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin,  
Germany

<https://www.jobvector.de/stellensuche/?keyword=virology&sort=score&pn=1&jobId=194841>

Postdoctoral Position

Center of Molecular Life Sciences,  
University of Basel

<https://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/open-positions/detail/postdoctoral-position-in-phylogenetics-and-microbial-evolution-100>

Senior postdoctoral Position

Emerging infections

Institute for Infection Research and  
Vaccine Development (IIVRD),  
University Hospital Hamburg-  
Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/job/12796044/senior-postdoc-position-in-emerging-infections/?LinkSource=PremiumListing>

Junior Group Leader

Infectious diseases

Institut Pasteur de Lille, Lille, France

<https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Call-for-PIs-Resistomics-2024-14-11-003.pdf>

Senior position for medical specialist  
in microbiology, virology and  
infectious disease epidemiology

Institute of Virology

University of Saarland, Homburg,  
Germany

[https://publish.uniklinikum-saarland.de/LS/2046671677/OBS/Information/754294f0-666f-4566-bf4f-96b56ba03b4f?wss\\_1=esGrid\\_ObsUebersicht&wss\\_1\\_anzahl=10&wss\\_1\\_sort=asc---](https://publish.uniklinikum-saarland.de/LS/2046671677/OBS/Information/754294f0-666f-4566-bf4f-96b56ba03b4f?wss_1=esGrid_ObsUebersicht&wss_1_anzahl=10&wss_1_sort=asc---Stellenbeschreibung%20Bezeichnung)

[Stellenbeschreibung%20Bezeichnung](#)

Senior position for medical specialist  
in microbiology, virology and  
infectious disease epidemiology

Institute of Medical Microbiology and  
Hygiene

University Medical Center Mainz,  
Germany

<https://aerztestellen.aerzteblatt.de/de/stelle/oberarztaerztin-m-w-d-als-stellvertretende-medizinische-laborleitung-334056-1a-1>

## Funding / Awards

Best “Paper of the Season” award for early career virologists - by the young Society for Virology Germany (jGfV)  
Application deadline: 01 June 2023

<https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/jGfV-awards-and-scholarships.pdf>

Lab rotation scholarships for early career virologists - by the young Society for Virology Germany (jGfV)  
Application deadline: 15 October 2023

<https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/jGfV-awards-and-scholarships.pdf>

Jürgen Wehland Preis

Application deadline: 25. August 2023

<https://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/de/aktuelles/preise-auszeichnungen/juergen-wehland-preis/>

Emmy Noether Program (DFG)

[https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/emmy\\_noether/](https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/emmy_noether/)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2022-pf-01-01>

## Useful Webpages

Graduate Student Funding Opportunities – compiled by the Johns Hopkins University

<https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/graduate/>

<https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/graduate/>

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/jobs/search?text=virology&location>

<https://careers.cell.com/searchjobs/?Keywords=virology&radialtown=&LocationId=&RadialLocation=20>

<https://www.jobvector.de/stellensuche/?keyword=virologie&sort=score&pn=1>

<https://www.dfg.de/>

<https://g-f-v.org/>

<https://fems-microbiology.org/>



# Announcements

- ❖ Do not forget to apply for the best summer paper award – deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023!

<https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/jGfV-awards-and-scholarships-v5.pdf>

- ❖ Check out our upcoming jGfV lectures, the monthly seminar from ACHIEVE as well as the different workshops:

- **Workshop „Clinical Virological Research“**  
May 5 -6, 2023, Würzburg
- **Workshop „New and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases“**  
September 6 -8, 2023, Goslar
- **Workshop „Immunobiology of Viral Infections“**  
September 11 -13, 2023, Bad Salzschlirf
- **Workshop „Young PI“**  
October 11 -22, 2023, Hannover
- **Workshop „Cell Biology of Viral Infections“**  
October 18 -20, 2023, Kloster Schöntal



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**Save the dates!**

## IMPRESSUM

### Newsletter team:

Sriram Kumar, Philipp Osterman, Daniel Sauter, Hanna-Mari Baldauf, Philipp Steininger, Nele Villabruna, Maximilian Kelch

### Correspondence:

[jGfV@G-f-V.org](mailto:jGfV@G-f-V.org)

### Design:

Ramya Nair



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