

Highlights

Advice from the expert: “How to find an alternative career (part I)”

Reports on jGfV virology lecture, GfV workshop and GfV annual meeting

Interview with Dr. Joana Haussig

Upcoming events

20 May – 24 May 2024
37th International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR)

20 May – 25 May 2024
49th Cold Spring Harbor Meeting on Retroviruses

23 May – 24 May 2024
European Non-Polio Enterovirus Network (ENPEN) Workshop

27 May 2024 (virtual; 5:00 pm)
jGfV virology lecture series: Nipah viruses

News

Dear fellows,

Our society is now partnering with the Swedish Society of Virology (SSV) and supporting attendance at their annual meeting in August with three travel grants (see open call on p. 5). Did you miss our session at the annual meeting? Turn to p. 13 to get an idea of what you missed. On a more personal note, the jGfV board will be undergoing some changes, which are highlighted on p. 2. Last but not least, we want to thank all the contributors to this issue.

Your newsletter team

Preface

This will be the most personal preface I will write. After more than three years it is time to say thanks and goodbye. First of all, I would like to point out Ralf Bartenschlager, who was the initiator of the jGfV. I would like to thank the GfV board for all their support, open doors and feedback. A big shout out goes to all past and present members of the jGfV board for their dedication and support, and it is time to say thank you to you, the young virologists, for taking advantage of our activities and offerings and giving us great feedback - you are our inspiration to build it all up. Now it is time for me to move on and hand over the leadership of the jGfV to Stephanie Pfänder and Christian Sieben in June. In June, Konstantin Sparrer will also take over my co-leadership of ACHIEVE. I am really proud of what we have achieved in such a short time and will of course continue to support the jGfV, but not in an official position. Just to mention two new activities this year: The first ACHIEVE Mentoring has started and more information will follow. And we have initiated the VIROCARD Grand Prix at the annual meeting in Vienna, which served as an icebreaker event for your virologists to get in touch with more experienced ones. Congratulations to our winners Daksha Munot from Tübingen (1st prize sponsored by GfV) and Philipp Bäumer (2nd prize sponsored by npj viruses)! And thanks to the jGfV board for my own jGfV 3D virus - it has the best place in my office and will always remind me of the good times we had together.

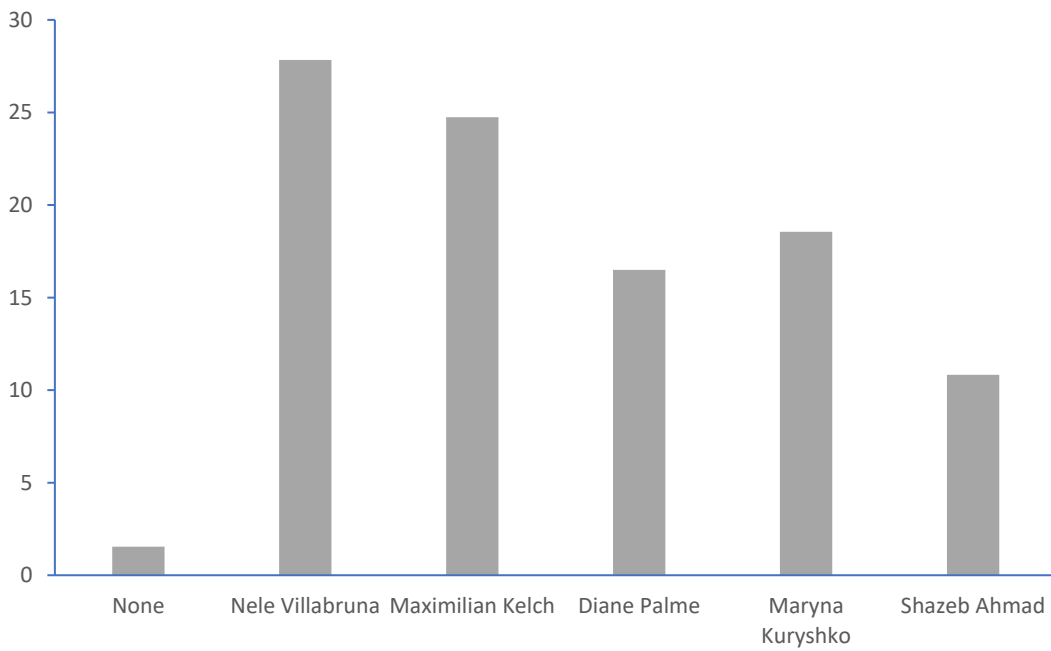
Yours, Hanna-Mari Baldauf



Preface

Based on our call, you could choose among five candidates for this year's jGfV student representatives election. The voting closed April 15 and we received 103 votes.

VOTING RESULTS FOR THE NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:



Congratulations to the current and newly elected student representatives Nele Villabruna and Maximilian Kelch!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR jGfV BEST SPRING PAPER 2024 AWARDEES

Guorong Sun, PhD

“Herpes simplex virus type 1 modifies the protein composition of extracellular vesicles to promote neurite outgrowth and neuroinfection”
(mBio, January 2024)

Dr. Nicola Frericks

„Unraveling the dynamics of hepatitis C virus adaptive mutations and their impact on antiviral responses in primary human Hepatocytes“
(Journal of Virology, February 2024)



Dr. Zina Uckeley

“Glucosylceramide in bunyavirus particles is essential for virus binding to host cells”
(Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences, February 2024)



Guorong

Nicola



Zina



Junge
GfV



The Swedish Society of Virology (SSV) will hold its annual **Smögen Summer Symposium** on Virology on **August 22-24, 2024**. In light of a newly established partnership, the GfV is offering to support **three** of its **young members** (PhD students and postdocs up to 3 years, as well as physicians in training) with a **travel grant of 300€ each**. This contribution will help cover some of the costs associated with participation and accommodation. The deadline for abstracts submission is May 31. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to join a research course at their own expense, occurring from August 19-21, prior to the symposium. To get an insight into previous Smögen Meetings, please visit <https://www.swedishvirology.se/member-info/>.

If you are interested, please send your application as a single PDF to jGfV@g-f-v.org by **01.05.2024**. Your application should include a brief CV (1 page) and a motivation letter (max. 1 page) explaining your desire to attend the meeting.

Report

jGfV virology lecture series

- Polyomavirus -

*Dorota Kmiec, session chair,
University Ulm*

Dr. med. Tuna Toptan Grabmair (Institute of Medical Virology, University Hospital Frankfurt) and Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Nicole Fischer (Institute for Medical Microbiology, Virology and Hygiene, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf) were the guest speakers of the jGfV virtual virology lecture about Polyomaviruses on January 16, 2024. Both speakers are experts in the biology and pathogenesis of polyomaviruses (PyV) and have authored high-impact publications on this topic. Prof. Fischer's research focuses on clinically relevant polyomaviruses. In particular, her research group is working on elucidating the life cycle of Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV), investigating the persistence of the virus and its role in cancer pathogenesis. Dr. Toptan Grabmair discovered and characterized circular RNAs encoded by DNA tumor viruses, including MCPyV, developed a pan-polyomavirus immunohistochemical

test (P-PIT) to survey human polyomaviruses and associated diseases and identified a new rat polyomavirus (RatPyV2).

PyV are non-enveloped double-stranded DNA viruses that persist as episomes in the infected cells for life. As their name („poly“ –many „oma“ –tumors) indicates, polyomaviruses can induce tumors, although few cause tumors in their host. Polyomaviruses have been identified in a variety of mammalian and avian species, and with next-generation sequencing efforts, this family of viruses is growing rapidly. To date, 15 polyomaviruses have been isolated from different human tissues. Some of the recently identified members exhibit low seroprevalence and have been rarely detected in human clinical samples. Therefore, further investigation is necessary to elucidate their human tropism. However, in general, infections with human PyVs are highly prevalent. Initial infections, occurring during early childhood, are asymptomatic but result in lifelong viral persistence. In the context of immunosuppression, PyVs can reactivate, leading to po-

tentially life-threatening diseases. Clinically relevant human PyVs include MCPyV, BK Virus (BKPyV) and JC Virus (JCPyV). Disease associations have also been established for WUPyV, HPyV7, and TSPyV.

MCPyV is a bonafide human tumor virus that causes Merkel cell cancer (MCC), an aggressive skin cancer, the 2nd most common cause of skin cancer fatality. Although the virus is highly prevalent, MCC is a rare cancer - 1.2/100.000 will develop MCC. In the tumor cells, the viral genome is monoclonally integrated into the host genome and tumor cells are dependent on viral onco-protein expression.

BKPyV is known to cause potentially life-threatening complications in kidney and bone marrow transplant recipients and may lead to graft rejection. Interestingly, in very rare cases BKPyV is associated with bladder carcinoma in immunocompromised transplant patients.

JCPyV causes central nervous system (CNS) infections that, under immunosuppression, contribute to progressive multifocal encephalopathy (PML), a fatal demyelinating disease caused by lytic infection and

lysis of oligodendrocytes.

Although our understanding of PyV infections has greatly improved in recent years, leading in particular to the development of diagnostic tools, there are still no specific treatment options, such as antiviral drugs, to inhibit viral replication or even to prevent viral activation under immunosuppression. Several aspects limit research in this field: First, the host specificity and narrow cell tropism is a challenge for the development of *in vivo* and *in vitro* infection systems. Second, the small viral genome does not allow for insertions such as reporter genes.

The current progress in research through omics methods and especially through the development of new model systems such as human organoids will significantly advance research in this field and provide new insights. In particular, understanding the mechanisms of these viruses that contribute to persistence and reactivation are important questions for the future in order to develop effective prevention and treatment measures against these viral infections in the long run.

Thanks, Dorota, for chairing the lecture!

jUNITE Netzwerktreffen

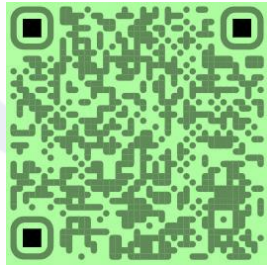


Nachhaltigkeit in der Infektionsmedizin

11. bis 13. Oktober 2024 in
Bad Tabarz



Mehr Infos



Anmeldung hier

Sponsor:

JOACHIM
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GfV workshop report - HIV innate immunity -

*Tom Baldow & Hsiu-Hui Yang,
LMU Munich*

Despite continued progress in the research of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in recent years it still is a huge burden to humanity. According to the WHO, 39 million people were living with an infection in 2022. Although the outbreak of AIDS in HIV-infected individuals can be limited using antiretroviral therapy (ART) the goal to develop a vaccine or to cure the disease is still not reached. To move forward with this, it is absolutely necessary to understand the complex interactions between the virus and its host cells. The Workshop of the GfV on HIV innate immunity served the purpose to bring scientists together and share their latest findings. On March 1st, 2024 the 9th edition of this workshop took place in an online format which allowed to conveniently include speakers from various places within Germany but also guest speakers from abroad. The event was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Oliver Fackler and formed the closing symposium of the SPP1923 DFG priority program “Innate Sen-

sing and Restriction of Retroviruses”.

The opening session was held by Dr. Renate König from the Paul-Ehrlich Institute. Afterwards, the scientific part of the workshop started with a Key Note Lecture of Dr. Florence Margottin-Goguet from the Institute Cochin in Paris. She shared with us the interesting observations of her group that lentiviral Vpx/Vpr proteins degrade the host factor HUSH, which is interfering with the expression of the integrated provirus, and SAMHD1, which is limiting reverse transcription activity. Next, Prof. Dr. Frank Kirchhoff guided us through the method of virus-guided technology platform, by which several antiviral factors were found. Before the break, Prof. Dr. Carsten Münk introduced us to his research regarding USP18, which is an ISG15 specific protease. USP18 contributes to multiple aspects of HIV-1 replication, including downregulation of p21 and inhibition of the sensing of HIV-1.

After a short break, the second part of the workshop was opened by Dr. Oya Cingöz from the Robert-Koch-Institute Berlin. She spoke about the

direct expression of incoming HIV-1 genomes. This is particularly interesting since the most known model of the replication cycle of HIV-1 normally includes the reverse transcription of the genomic RNA to DNA following integration into the host genome. However, the presented results clearly indicated that that is not the only fate of the viral RNA but that under certain conditions also a direct translation without reverse transcription takes place.

The next talk was given by Dr. Marek Widera from the University Hospital of the Goethe University in Frankfurt. He was focusing on an interferon-induced alteration of cellular host factors and its influence on HIV-1 replication. Host factors are components produced from the host cell that a virus needs to successfully replicate. Two of these factors mentioned in more detail were SRSF and hnRNP. The presented data revealed that both of them indeed underlie an interferon-mediated regulation.

Prof. Dr. Christine Goffinet from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine continued talking about interferons but shifted the focus to

their influence on the “killability” of HIV-1 reactivating T-cells by NK-cells. This is particularly interesting for the so-called “Shock-and-kill” approach for a potential HIV-1 cure.

Finally, Prof. Dr. Fackler from the University Hospital Heidelberg dedicated the last talk of the day to the impact of tissue-like environments on spread and innate recognition of HIV-1. He therefore gave insights into the possibilities of creating a 3D environment in the lab for example with collagens and pointed out some advantages of these systems.



Universitätsmedizin Essen

Universitätsklinikum

Institute for the Research on HIV
and AIDS-associated Diseases



HIV-AAD
Institute for the Research on
HIV & AIDS-associated Diseases



WZI

Westdeutsches Zentrum
für Infektiologie



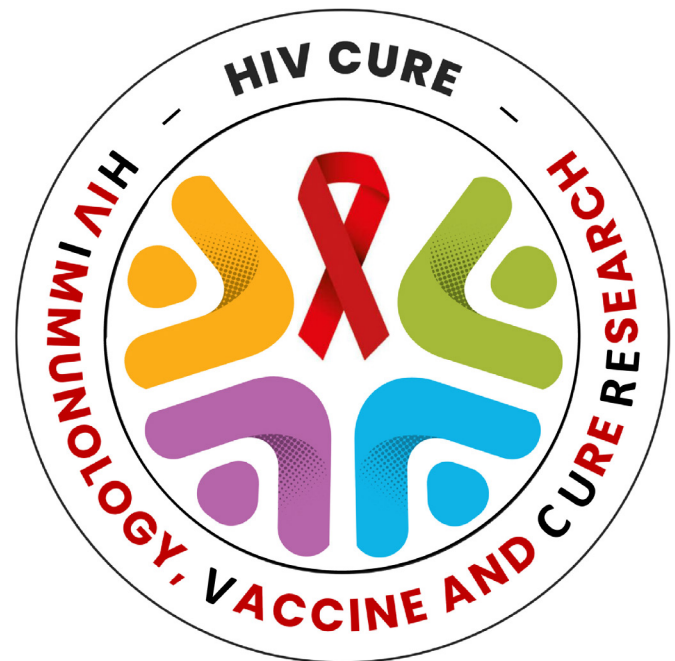
Skyline Copyright: „Presse- und Kommunikationsamt, Stadt Essen“

1st Announcement

Keynote Speakers

Max Crispin (Southampton)
Christine Goffinet (Liverpool)
Jacob Nattermann (Bonn)
Philipp Schommers (Köln)
Kim Hasenkrug (NIAID, NIH)

Abstract submission until:
30th June, 2024

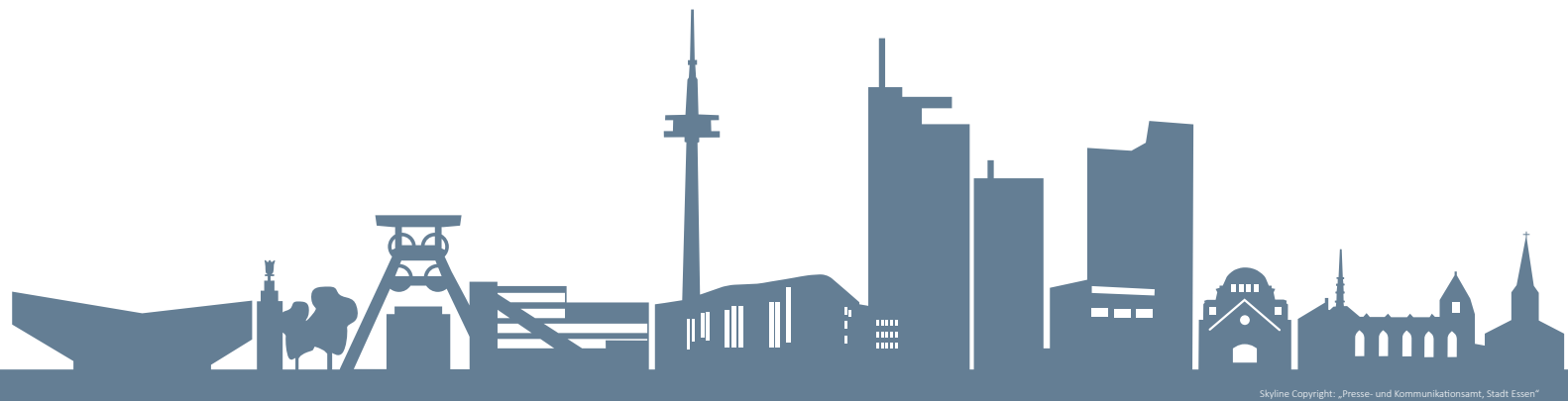


**„Symposium on HIV Immunology,
Vaccine, and Cure Research“**

19th – 20th September, 2024

*„Participating in this event
provides the opportunity
to receive CME points“*

University Hospital Essen
Lern- und Lehrzentrum (LLZ), Deichmann-Auditorium
Virchowstr. 163a, 45147 Essen, Germany



The Institute for the Research on HIV and AIDS-associated Diseases of the University Hospital Essen (UK Essen), under the direction of Prof. Dr. Mirko Trilling and Prof. Dr. Stefan Esser, is proud to host the 2nd HIV workshop in Essen entitled "**Symposium on HIV Immunology, Vaccine, and Cure Research**".

This event will include keynote talks from leading experts in Latency, Vaccine Development, Innate & Adaptive Immunity, and AIDS-related diseases. Come join us for insightful discussions and networking opportunities!

The participation fee for this event is 50 € per person. To register please send your name, affiliation, and an abstract (300 words maximum excluding the title) in a single Word file (.docx) to hivforschung@uk-essen.de until 30th June, 2024.

With best regards,

Christina Karsten, Elisabeth Littwitz-Salomon, Roland Schwarzer, and Kathrin Sutter

Contact

**Institute for the Research on HIV
and AIDS-associated Diseases**
Nadine Schlitzer
Secretary
Phone: +49 201 / 723 – 4225
hivforschung@uk-essen.de

Sponsors



Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology in Vienna

João Côrte-Real, CIBIO, Portugal & Hsiu-Hui Yang, LMU Munich

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Virology (GfV) took place in the beautiful capital of Austria Vienna, for the second time after 24 years, from 25th March until 28th March. The congress was attended by over 900 participants. We had 25 companies present for the industrial exhibition. Furthermore, there were two industrial symposiums given by GlaxoSmithKline GmbH & Co. KG and Moderna Germany GmbH.

The congress started with the welcome note delivered by Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Puchhammer-Stöckl and the President of the GfV Prof. Dr. Ulf Dittmer, then handed the forum to Prof. Dr. Judith Aberle and Prof. Dr. Joerg Timm to moderate the first plenary session, which focused on virus immunology.

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Hengel from the University of Freiburg showed that Natural Killer cells, despite belonging to the innate immunity, were able to acquire “memory-like” properties upon CMV infection, but are still characterized by their

distinctive epigenetic markers and receptors. The session continued with Prof. Dr. Christian Münz who, with the use of a humanized mouse model, was able to demonstrate that EBV infection helps KSHV to persist and vice versa. Additionally, he showed that KSHV CD8⁺ T cells can kill double infected B cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The third plenary talk was given by Prof. Dr. Peter Openshaw about RSV prevention, which is responsible for high morbidity in infants and elderly during winter seasons. Several prospects for the prevention of RSV infection are available, with vaccines to protect infants (trials underway) and elderly patients and additionally vaccines for pregnant women (in trials). Moreover, a new monoclonal antibody was approved.

The second plenary session’s main focus was on vaccines, chaired by Prof. Dr. Klaus Überla and Prof. Dr. Melanie Brinkmann. The first talk of this session was given by Prof. Dr. Karin Stiasny from the Medical University of Vienna. The talk demonstrated that smaller-scale protein dynamics (or virus “breathing”) can alter the antigen structure and affect the interactions with ligands like antibodies and host cell

molecules. It was followed by Prof. Dr. Alexandra Trkola, who enlightened us with the implications of broadly neutralizing antibodies multispecificity for HIV-1 vaccine design. Multi-specificity likely develops gradually, and the presence of one bnAB favors the development of additional bnABs. The bnAB inducers Env may provide an opportunity for vaccine design.

To close the plenary talk, Prof. Dr. Florian Krammer, gave an overview of the development of broadly protective influenza virus vaccines, focusing on a strategy using prime/boosting with chimeric HAs, having a constant stalk domain H1 and the head H9 for priming and H5 and H6 for consecutive boosts.

The plenary session 3 was split into a plenary talk on virus-host interaction and the Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Award ceremony; the chairs of the session were Prof. Dr. Sigrun Smola and Prof. Dr. Beate Sodeik. The talk by Prof. Gisa Gerold focused on the protein interactions in chronic and emerging virus, where host factors expression, usage and interactions are tissue-specific and proteomics and multiomics are critical to study

virus-induced changes in the cells and understand the virus to develop preventive and curative strategies for emerging viruses.

The winner of the second Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation Award for Distinguished Achievements in Virology 2024 was Prof. Dr. Paul Bieniasz from the Rockefeller University. He presented eight gracious lessons and applications from explorations of host antiviral defenses.

The fourth plenary session started with the talk from Prof. Dr. Nicole Fischer, focusing on the application of metagenomics in pathogen diagnostics, for example, the Karius test which is commercially available. Next, PD Dr. Irene Görzer shared an intriguing topic regarding Torque Teno Virus (TTV) characteristics suitable for immune monitoring. The TTV plasma viral load can be used for quantifying the strength of immunosuppression in post-transplant patients. In the last talk, Prof. Dr. Marco Hein showed us the well-established system biology research using single-cell functional genomics and global organelle profiling on virus-host systems.

The jGfV had also an own session in

Vienna. The chairs of this session were the young student representatives Maximilian Kelch and Nele Villabruna who first gave an overview about the variety of activities and opportunities that are offered by the jGfV. This was followed by the jGfV best spring paper award session 2024. The three papers were “Unraveling the dynamics of hepatitis C virus adaptive mutations and their impact on antiviral responses in primary human hepatocytes” by Nicola Frericks *et al.* published in *Journal of Virology*, “Herpes simplex virus type 1 modifies the protein composition of extracellular vesicles to promote neurite outgrowth and neuroinfection” by Guorong Sun *et al.*, published in *mBio* and “Glucosylceramide in bunyavirus particles is essential for virus binding to host cells” by Zina Maria Uckelely *et al.*, published in *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences*. Afterwards, Dr. Henning Jacobsen gave a small impression about his lab rotation scholarship experience and encouraged everyone to apply for it. The jGfV session finished with a lively round table discussion “Do’s and Don’ts for Applications” with Prof. Dr. Isabella Eckerle (Geneva),

Prof. Dr. Florian Krammer (New York/Vienna) and Dr. Sarah Schmidt (Hookipa, Vienna).

The last plenary session took place in the afternoon of the 27th March. In the beginning, Prof. Dr. Isabella Eckerle impressed the audience with how diagnostics and translational research contribute to public health research. Prof. Dr. Luisa Barzon raised the attention of the threats of vector-borne viruses and the possible challenges people are facing. The last plenary talk focused on Borna disease virus 1, where Prof. Dr. Barbara Schmidt provided an overview of the epidemiology of Borna disease virus in Germany. This virus is difficult to detect and it would be crucial to better understand its routes of transmission from shrews to humans.

A total of four awards were presented at the award session. The winner of the GfV PhD Award for 2024 was Artem Ashurov, MD. The DZIF Award 2024 was attributed to Ombretta Colasanti, PhD, from the University of Heidelberg. The Loeffler Frosch Award 2024 was awarded to Prof. Dr. Konstantin Sparrer from Ulm University. Prof. Dr. Sybille

Schneider-Schaulies was awarded with the most distinguished prize of the GfV, the Loeffler Frosch Medal for 2024, for the lifetime achievement of an outstanding virologist.

Congratulations to all the researchers that were awarded for their outstanding research and a tremendous career.

The evening closed with an extraordinary social evening at the Wiener Rathauskeller - beautiful place, great food and lots of fun!

Before Prof. Dr. Thomas Dobner introduced next year's location in Hamburg, it was time to reveal the winners of the jGfV VIROCARD grand prix. This icebreaker game was initiated for the first time by the jGfV to help young virologists to get in contact with experienced ones. The first winner with 29 collected cards was Daksha Munot from Tübingen who received a 200 € Media Markt voucher sponsored by the GfV. The second winner with 20 collected cards was Philipp Böhmer from Hamburg who received a 200 € Media Markt voucher sponsored by npj viruses.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who helped in the 33rd GfV congress, to all the

sponsors and organizers that made this 33rd Annual Meeting a success. We hope to see you all next year, in Hamburg from the 4-7th of March 2025 (abstract deadline: 1st of December 2024) with new and exciting research.

For more information:

GfV LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/gesvirologie/>

GfV website:

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

GfV X:

<https://twitter.com/GesVirologie>

33rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Virology (GfV) website:

<https://virology-meeting.de/>



Pictures @ Prof. Dr. Volker Lohmann

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

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://cliniviro.g-f-v.org/online-education-circle/>

...find alternative career paths?

Part I: Professor at a University of Applied Sciences



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.

Often the only career path discussed in German academia is the path to the university professorship. Other career paths, whether a change out of academia or alternatives within the broader context of academia (e. g. science management, non-university research institutes, a professor at a University of Applied Sciences), are often seen as second-rate options, if being discussed at all. This can contribute to the phenomenon that people who leave the path to a university professorship or academia behind feel like a failure, because they “didn’t make it as a professor.” This is utter nonsense! Depending on what your competencies, values and visions for your life are, there are plenty of joyful and fulfilling options besides the university professor. Today, we look at the option of becoming a professor at a University of Applied Sciences.

What is a University of Applied Sciences?

At Universities of Applied Sciences, teaching professional skills to students will be your central task, therefore the study programs often have an applied focus. The idea is to educate professionals for all areas in public and economic life. Transfer of knowledge from your research into other sectors (e.g. education, services, government, industry) is central to all your activities. The 427

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.

Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany are usually smaller institutions than universities and often have a thematic focus. They cover art, music, engineering, social and political sciences, STEM fields or/and other fields.

What do you need?

To qualify for a professorship you need a PhD, teaching experience plus 5 years of professional experience, with 3 years of these preferably outside the university/academic field. What qualifies as non-academic can vary depending on the federal state, discipline and institution. Experience at one of the four non-university research associations (Leibniz-Gemeinschaft, Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft) sometimes counts as non-university experience, sometimes it doesn't. A lot of Universities of Applied Sciences have difficulties to find professors, so there are qualification programs where you can either do your PhD (if you have industry experience) or gather non-university/non-academic experience (if you have a PhD). Sometimes, these paths are formalized with an attractive perspective (e. g. you are on a junior professorship position and once you have the qualification you become a W2 full professor), sometimes these are more or less informal arrangements between two organizations with no secured perspective. If you see an attractive position but are in doubt whether you might qualify, contact the institution and ask them.

What do you do?

As a professor at a University of Applied Sciences

you will mostly teach. While a regular professor at a university has to teach 9 SWS, at a University of Applied Sciences you have usually 18 SWS. However, the way you will teach is often different. You have smaller groups of students and therefore more contact with them. Additionally, practical/applied projects as well as problem-based teaching is much more common than at a university. So called “soft skills” can play a large role. Also, the students often differ from those at a university: They tend to be more practice-oriented and sometimes with experience in industry.

Research comes second, but there is a lot of creative freedom to do research if you want to. Of course, responsibilities in the academic self-governance are part of the job.

This focus on teaching is a reason why it is often very difficult to change from a professorship at a University of Applied Sciences to a professorship at the university; your publication record will be most likely not competitive.

When could this be an attractive option?

A professorship at a University of Applied Sciences can be attractive if

you like teaching, working with students and enjoy sharing your professional experiences with others. Furthermore, commitment to inter- and transdisciplinarity may be highly welcome or even expected from you. This is how some professors build strong (regional) networks with companies or political players and create economic and/or societal impact of their research activities. If you have a second job, it is much easier to combine both occupations (if they are thematically connected) than if you worked at a university – in particular, if you can involve your students through practical projects. Part-time professorships are also common.

Last but not least...the trends

There are two connected trends: some Universities of Applied Sciences want to strengthen their research profile and can offer to reduce the teaching load if you as a candidate can contribute to this goal (e.g. through third-party funded projects). Up until very recently, the universities held the privilege to grant doctoral titles (“Promotionsprivileg”). In practice, this meant (and means) you have to cooperate with a university professor to formally su-

pervise PhD candidates (“kooperative Promotion”). But this is changing, too: some federal states have already given the right to grant doctoral titles to the Universities of Applied Sciences...

If you have topics for the „how to“ section we have not yet touched, please email to jGfV@GfV.org.



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/>

Interview with Dr. Joana Haussig



Dr. Joana Haussig studied biology at the Heidelberg University and completed her PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin in 2013. From 2014 to 2016 she completed the Postgraduate Training for Applied Epidemiology (PAE) at the Robert-Koch Institute in Berlin and obtained her Master of Science in Applied Epidemiology from the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

Interviewers:

Maximilian Kelch, University of Frankfurt & Dr. Nele Villabruna, TiHo Hannover

1) You work for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm on Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases. What is your scientific background/training, and how did you get to work for the ECDC?

I studied biology in Heidelberg and did my PhD on the genetic characterization of *Plasmodium berghei* apicoplast proteins at Prof. Dr. Kai Matuschewski's lab at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin. Afterwards, I stayed on for a short postdoc, during which I started to wonder what to do next. On the one hand, I wanted to move from „basic research“ to something more „applied“, on the other hand, I really wanted to find something in the area of infectious diseases and preferably related to vector-borne diseases, as I was still fascinated by this topic. During this time, I attended a weekly lecture series on epidemiology of infectious diseases organised by the Robert-Koch Institute (RKI). That's when I realised that was exactly what I had been looking for. I applied for several jobs in that field, but didn't get any positive reply until I got accepted to the German Field Epidemiology Training Programme (‘‘Postgraduiertenausbildung

Since 2017 she is working at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), first as Scientific Officer in Epidemic Intelligence and since 2018 as Expert for Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases.

für angewandte Epidemiologie“, PAE) at the RKI. This is a 2-year-programme closely related to the EPIET programme coordinated by ECDC with several international training modules on various topics and a lot of hands-on project work. During the fellowship, I also went on two international deployments, 6 weeks to Guinea during the Ebola outbreak with WHO and 10 days to Angola in the aftermath of the yellow fever outbreak with the European Medical Corps. This was a real game changer for me. After the fellowship, I stayed on for a few months to work as epidemiologist at the RKI. I then got a position at the ECDC in Stockholm as Scientific Officer in Epidemic Intelligence. After eight months, I changed positions and started working as Expert on Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases (EVD). That’s where I have been working for more than six years now.

2) How does your working day look like? And how much does it depend on the current situation (for example, the COVID pandemic or international outbreaks)?

My working day is usually a mix of meetings and work on various tasks and projects. The meetings can for instance be meetings related to specific projects and tasks that I am covering or slightly more general and administrative team/section/unit meetings. One of my main fields of work is the surveillance of 18 EVDs that are under indicator-based surveillance at EU/EEA level. For this, I am in contact with Member States to collect, validate and analyse the data on these diseases. During the summer months, we are also usually quite busy with the enhanced surveillance

of West Nile virus infections, for which we follow infections in humans and animals in a One Health approach. One of the main reasons for this is to inform blood safety authorities on the areas of ongoing West Nile virus transmissions. Furthermore, we often have some more in-depth data analysis for specific diseases or production of other outputs such as risk assessments or technical reports ongoing.

At times the work depends a lot on ongoing outbreaks. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the worldwide Mpox outbreak most of my regular work was postponed to work on these Public Health emergencies. Besides these major events that affect the work of a large part of the organisation, there are also other events that keep our group quite busy, such as autochthonous outbreaks of West Nile virus infections, dengue and chikungunya virus disease within the EU. We have various duty systems in place to respond to these events, and the weeks I am on duty, this can of course have a big impact on my working days. As our team covers more than 20 different diseases, it really never gets boring!

3) What are the differences between working at a university versus the ECDC?

There are probably many differences. We cover topics and tasks that are in the interest of the general public. For this it is important to keep a service-minded approach and evaluate what is useful for the EU Member States.

The working conditions also differ quite a bit. We do not have to apply for grants to fund our work and our careers do not depend on publishing a certain amount of high-impact papers. While most of us are emigrants and might at some point want to move back to our home country or work on something else, you are not automatically expected or forced to leave your job after just a few years like it is the case for most PhD students or postdocs at universities. Getting my first 5-year-contract felt like such a relief after the many short-term contracts I have had before. And to be honest, we probably spend much more time in meetings than researchers at universities.

4) Is the publishing pressure similar to working at a university?

No, not at all. We do publish peer-reviewed papers, but we do not depend on them for funding nor does our career depend on the number and impact factors of published papers. For me, this makes working on manuscripts (which I enjoy quite a lot) so much more fun. Furthermore, we always consider what is the best type of output to reach our target audience. At ECDC we publish not only peer-reviewed papers, but also other types of outputs, for example, technical reports, rapid risk assessments, epidemiological updates among many others. So we do a lot of scientific writing in various formats.

5) What advice would you give people who are considering working in the public health sector?

I think the paths to working in Public Health are quite diverse, so this is difficult to say. Personally, I realised it was difficult for me to get a foot in the door before having some kind of formal training in Public Health or epidemiology. This can of course be a bit frustrating after having completed a PhD and maybe even a postdoc in another field. However, I would say it is

definitely worth considering, especially as there are options where you also can get remunerated while doing it. This might of course make a huge difference depending on your personal situation. And of course, in general: be persistent and try to network with experts in the field you are interested in! Send as many applications as necessary and don't give up, it will be worth it.

Thank you very much, Dr. Haussig, for this interview!

Einladung zum 17. Workshop
des GfV-Arbeitskreises
„Klinisch-Virologische Forschung“
06. Juni 2024 in Würzburg



Wir möchten gerne alle Interessierten herzlich zum diesjährigen Workshop „Klinisch-Virologische Forschung“ einladen!

Beiträge sind zu jedem Aspekt der klinischen und diagnostischen Virologie willkommen. Auch „Work in progress“ ist erwünscht und hierbei insbesondere Bachelor-, Master-Studenten, Doktoranden oder Assistenten in Weiterbildung zum Fachvirologen bzw. Facharzt herzlich eingeladen. Sofern es der Zeitrahmen erlaubt, wird es möglich sein alle angemeldeten Beiträge als Vortrag (10-15 min) zu präsentieren. Zusätzlich stehen wie immer intensive Diskussionen und persönliche Gespräche (Kooperationsmöglichkeiten, Methoden- und Erfahrungsaustausch etc.) im Vordergrund. Für „spontane“ Präsentationen, Diskussion von vorläufigen Ergebnissen, Fallberichten etc. steht eine offene „Late-Breaker“-Session zur Verfügung.

Registrierung:

Anmeldung bis zum **13.05.2024** unter: <https://cliniviro.g-f-v.org/registration-abstracts/>

Abstracts:

Abstract in Englisch oder Deutsch, mit Titel, Autoren (bitte präsentierende Person unterstreichen), Institutionen. Schriftart Arial, Größe 11. Maximal 1 DIN A4-Seite.

Falls das Abstract bei Registrierung noch nicht fertig sein sollte, bitte unbedingt zumindest den Titel angeben und das Abstract bis zum 13.05.2024 nachreichen an cliniviro@g-f-v.org

Teilnahmegebühr:

45 € für GfV-Mitglieder, 65 € für Nicht-GfV-Mitglieder.



Veranstaltungsort – und zeit:

Donnerstag, 06.06.2024, ab 11 Uhr

Wir werden auch dieses Jahr im **Burkardus-Haus** in der Stadtmitte tagen: Tagungszentrum am Dom, Am Bruderhof 1, 97070 Würzburg (www.burkardushaus.de).

Das Abendessen findet in einem Restaurant nahe des Tagungszentrums statt.

Unterkunft:

Das Abruflkontingent an Einzelzimmern im Tagungszentrum ist bereits ausgebucht. Es stehen jedoch verschiedene Hotels in der Nähe des Tagungszentrums zur Verfügung (z.B. Motel One Würzburg in 120 m Entfernung).

Weitere Auskunft:

Tina Ganzenmüller Tina.Ganzenmueller@med.uni-tuebingen.de

Philipp Steininger Philipp.Steininger@uk-erlangen.de

Tel. 07071 29-80279

Tel. 09131 85-36428

Job posts & Advertisements

Conferences / Workshops / Seminars

[20 May – 24 May 2024](#)

37th International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR)

Gold Coast, Australia

<https://www.isar-icar.com/ICAR2024>

[20 May – 25 May 2024](#)

49th Annual Meeting on Retroviruses

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY, USA

[https://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings.aspx?meet=R
ETRO&year=24](https://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings.aspx?meet=R
ETRO&year=24)

[23 May – 24 May 2024](#)

European Non-Polio Enterovirus Network (ENPEN) Workshop

Corfu, Greece

<https://escv.eu/>

[27 May 2024 \(virtual; 5:00 pm\)](#)

jGfV virology lecture series:

Nipah viruses

PD Dr. Anne Balkema-Buschmann & Prof. Dr.

Andrea Maisner

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlc
OGvrDsoH9xAGF78qn0DfZ7jxTKamuhJ](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlc
OGvrDsoH9xAGF78qn0DfZ7jxTKamuhJ)

[28 May – 30 May 2024](#)

International Virus Bioinformatics Meeting

Leuven, Belgium

<https://evbc.uni-jena.de/events/vibiom2024/>

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 or post them on SLACK.

02 June – 05 June 2024

21st Biennial International
Conference on Human Retrovirology:
HTLV and related viruses
London, UK
<https://www.htlv2024.org/>

02 June – 05 June 2024

DGHM & VAAM 2024
Würzburg, Germany
<https://dghm-vaam.de/>

06 June – 07 June 2024

76. Jahrestagung der DGHM e.V.
Würzburg, Germany
<https://www.dghm.org/veranstaltungen/>

06 June 2024

17th Workshop “Clinical Virological
Research”
Würzburg, Germany
<https://cliniviro.g-f-v.org/>

24 June – 28 June 2024

43rd Annual Meeting of the American
Society for Virology
Columbus, OH
<https://asv.org/asv2024/>

29 June – 03 July 2024

The International Symposium in EBV

& KSHV and related agents &
diseases (3rd Joint Meeting)
Boston, MA, USA
<https://ebv.ksvirus.org/>

13 July – 17 July 2024

48th International Herpesvirus
Workshop
Portland, Oregon, USA
<https://www.herpesvirusworkshop.com/2024/>

19 August – 21 August 2024

National Research Course on
Molecular Virology and Pathogenesis
Smögen, Sweden
<https://www.swedishvirology.se/>

22 August – 24 August 2024

21st Smögen Summer Symposium on
Virology
Smögen, Sweden
<https://www.swedishvirology.se/>

28 August – 30 August 2024

4th Symposium on Tropical Medicine
and Infectious Diseases in the
International Military Context 2024
Hamburg, Germany
<https://bwkhh.limesurvey.net/123125?lang=de>

01 September – 04 September 2024

European Congress of Immunology (ECI) 2024

Dublin, Ireland

<https://www.immunology.org/events/european-congress-immunology-eci-2024>

23 October – 25 October 2024

18th Congress of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)

Florence, Italy

<https://iums2024.com/>

11 September – 15 September 2024

2024 International HBV Meeting

Chicago, IL, USA

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

18 September – 21 September 2024

26th European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV) Annual Meeting 2024

Frankfurt a. Main, Germany

<https://escv.eu/>

25 September – 28 September 2024

30th International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus, Flaviviruses, and Related Viruses

Oxford, UK

<https://web.cvent.com/event/9faad65f-05cc-4f77-ae95-2d2cea2df235/summary>

11 October – 13 October 2024

Netzwerktreffen jUNITE

<https://www.netzwerk-infektionsmedizin.de/veranstaltungen>

Open positions

Postdoc, Department of Virology,
Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical
Medicine, Hamburg

[https://jobs.bnitm.de/Postdoc-mfd-
full-time-or-part-time-EG-13-TV-AVH-
Structural-eng-j330.html](https://jobs.bnitm.de/Postdoc-mfd-full-time-or-part-time-EG-13-TV-AVH-Structural-eng-j330.html)

PhD Student, Virus Diagnostics,
Friedrich-Löffler Institut, Greifswald
[https://www.fli.de/de/karriere/stelle-
angebote/einzelansicht/wiss-
mitarbeiterin-wiss-mitarbeiter-
doktorand-in-m-w-d-im-institut-fuer-
virusdiagnostik-1/](https://www.fli.de/de/karriere/stellenaangebote/einzelansicht/wiss-mitarbeiterin-wiss-mitarbeiter-doktorand-in-m-w-d-im-institut-fuer-virusdiagnostik-1/)

Post Doc, Department of
Immunology, Friedrich-Löffler
Institut, Greifswald
[https://www.fli.de/de/karriere/stelle-
angebote/einzelansicht/wissenschaf-
tlerin-wissenschaftler-
postdoktorandin-postdoktorand-m-
w-d-im-institut-fuer-immunologie/](https://www.fli.de/de/karriere/stellenaangebote/einzelansicht/wissenschaftlerin-wissenschaftler-postdoktorandin-postdoktorand-m-w-d-im-institut-fuer-immunologie/)

PhD Student, computational
Virology, Institute for Medical and
Molecular Virology, Ruhr Universität
Bochum, Bochum
[https://virologie-
bochum.de/kontakt-2/offene-
stellen/](https://virologie-bochum.de/kontakt-2/offene-stellen/)

Postdoc, Emerging Viruses, Leibniz-
Institut für Virologie, Hamburg
[https://www.leibniz-
liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellena-
angebote/AG74_Advertisement_Postdoc
_03_2024_bf.pdf](https://www.leibniz-liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellenaangebote/AG74_Advertisement_Postdoc_03_2024_bf.pdf)

Postdoc, Virus Immunology, Leibniz-
Institut für Virologie, Hamburg
[https://www.leibniz-
liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellena-
angebote/Stellenausschreibung_PD_Abt.
_8_DFG_Africa_2024_bf.pdf](https://www.leibniz-liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellenaangebote/Stellenausschreibung_PD_Abt.8_DFG_Africa_2024_bf.pdf)

PhD Student, Institute for Molecular
Virology, Universitätsklinikum Ulm,
Ulm
[https://uniklinik-ulm-
karriere.de/job/view/2909/phd-
student-f-m-d?page_lang=de](https://uniklinik-ulm-karriere.de/job/view/2909/phd-student-f-m-d?page_lang=de)

Postdoc, Institute of Virology,
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover,
Hannover
[https://mhh.hr4you.org/job/view/23
10/two-post-doctoral-scientist-
positions-f-d-m?page_lang=en](https://mhh.hr4you.org/job/view/2310/two-post-doctoral-scientist-positions-f-d-m?page_lang=en)

Scientific coordinator, pandemic
preparedness and one health,
Leibniz-Institut für Virologie,
Hamburg
[https://www.leibniz-
liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellena-
angebote/Stellenausschreibung_2024
Wissenschaftl_Projektkoor_in.pdf](https://www.leibniz-liv.de/fileadmin/aktuelles/stellenaangebote/Stellenausschreibung_2024_Wissenschaftl_Projektkoor_in.pdf)

Funding / Awards

Best “Paper of the Season” award for early career virologists - by the young Society for Virology Germany (jGfV)
Application deadline: 01 June 2024

<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 2024

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

DFG-Nachwuchsakademie
„Infektionsmedizin“

<https://www.dfg.de/de/aktuelles/neuigkeiten-themen/info-wissenschaft/2024/ifw-24-27>

Emmy Noether Program (DFG)

<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

- ❖ We are looking forward to receive your cool lab pics (no deadline)!
- ❖ Deadline for the travel grants to the SSV meeting is **May 1st**.
- ❖ The next deadline for the jGfV best season paper award is **June 1st**.
- ❖ Check out our upcoming jGfV lectures, the monthly seminar from ACHIEVE, the monthly education circle from CLINICAL VIROLOGY RESEARCH as well as the different workshops:
<https://g-f-v.org/jgfv/>

IMPRESSUM

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