jGfV Newsletter 01/2025

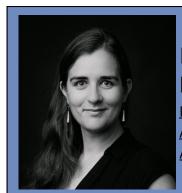




<u>HIGHLIGHTS</u>



How to...
...have a productive
replationship with your
supervisor?
by Stefanie Henauer



Interview
Dr. Franziska Wölfl
Executive Search &
Assessment Senior
Associate at New Chapter

HOW TO... INTERVIEW

REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

Dear fellows,

with the beginning of the the new year we are happy to introduce our jGfV newsletter in a new and more functional layout. Please enjoy browsing the first edition in 2025. Furthermore, in peparation of the annual GfV meeting, we want to draw your attention to our planned journal club on improbable research (see <u>Preface</u> and the flyer on <u>page 15</u>).

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

Your newsletter team

Preface

The new year has started and we are preparing for our annual GfV Meeting in Hamburg. This year the jGfV was actively included in the nomination of young virologists as session chairs.



The jGfV lunch session is planned for **Thursday, March 6th 2025** and will focus on "**Publishing**" featuring a journal club, "**Improbable Research**" (see <u>page 14</u>). We are excited to announce the second **Virocard Grand Prix** and are currently collecting submissions. Finally, we will also elect our new student representatives. If you are interested, the call is still open (see <u>page 3</u>).

We hope you enjoy the updated layout now with clickable links and a browser-based format. Feel free to send us your <u>feedback</u>. We'd be happy to hear what you think.

We wish you all a happy and successful new year.



IMPRESSUM:

Newsletter team: Nele Villabruna, Maximilian Kelch, Daniel Sauter, Philipp Steininger,

Cansu Demirden, Sophia Peter, Katharina Schmitz, Ju Eun Yoo, Christian Sieben

Correspondence: jGfV@G-f-V.org

Announcement



Open Call to Join the jGfV Board!



Are you a young virologist (a GfV member and a student up to 3rd-year PostDoc or physician in training) eager to make an impact, share your ideas, and shape the future of the jGfV?

If so, we invite you to apply and become a Student Representative on the jGfV board for a one-year term! As a board member, you will participate in our monthly online meetings and collaborate in smaller teams on exciting projects, such as organizing the newsletter or our virtual virology lecture series.

To apply, send us a **1-page PDF** that reflects who you are and what motivates you to join. Submit your application via email to jGfV@g-f-v.org. Deadline: **31.01.2025**.

Your application will be shared with GfV members and presented during the jGfV session at the Society for Virology's annual meeting in Hamburg 2025, after which we will invite all young GfV members to submit their votes.

We look forward to receiving your application!



How to

... have a productive relationship with your supervisor?

by Stefanie Henauer

The relationship with your supervisor can make your PhD life substantially easier or harder, especially when you are facing one of the inevitable obstacles you will encounter during your unique PhD journey. I am not suggesting though that building a respectful and productive professional relationship requires becoming close friends with your supervisor. Instead, the following strategies can help you foster a professional working relationship.

Note: While this article is aimed at PhD students, the advice can also apply to supervisors at all levels, including PhD candidates supervising Bachelor's or Master's students.

Clarify expectations and responsibilities

As humans, we are masters in having expectations and assumptions, which we do unconsciously most of the time. Unclarified expectations can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts later on, so communicating and aligning them as early as possible can prevent difficult discussions in the future. Also in the supervisory relationship, this is key. You can integrate talking about expectations in a meeting or you can asynchronously assess a set of topics to which extent it is the supervisor's and the PhD candidate's responsibility or whether they do share this in equal parts. Comparing the answers will show possible deviations that you then can discuss. The list of items to clarify may differ immensely in length and content, depending on your field, project and circumstances. You could for example clarify a number of diverse points such as your expectations concerning who should initiate meetings, who is to suggest conference attendances, who gets into contact with cooperation partners, informs themselves about relevant policies, procedures and requirements, and who makes sure that the project stays on track. A written supervision agreement - templates for which might be available at your institution - can also help to formalise what has been discussed. A supervision agreement could include, beyond the usual parts on topic, timeframe, duties of supervisors and PhD candidates, e.g. publication strategy, access to resources, what happens in a conflict and what happens if the money runs out before the PhD is done. If more than two people are involved in the core supervisory relationship (e.g. a supervising PostDoc), all parties should discuss who will be involved in which processes and decisions, and to what extent.

Adapt to your supervisor – but also talk about your work style preferences

Of course, it helps to have chosen a PhD supervisor who is compatible with your own style of both communication and work. However, sometimes it will only become clear later on, whether

this is the case and if it is not, you'll have to make peace with it, at least to some extent. This means that if you for example work best (not necessarily like it best) when your supervisor checks in on you and your project (relatively) regularly, it might be difficult to have

If you have topics for the "how to" section we have not yet touched, please email us at jGfV@G-f-V.org. a supervisor who gives you too much freedom and independence. Or maybe you can process information best in written form or in visuals, while your supervisor prefers to have a spontaneous, very verbal meeting in the hallway or the kitchen with no way for you to take notes. If your work styles deviate from each other in such a form, it is usually and unfortunately your duty to adapt to your supervisor in a way that you get what you need from them. This could mean that you negotiate a regular meeting schedule with status updates that fit both your supervisor and yourself. Or in the second example, you could suggest starting a voice recording of the kitchen meeting, allowing you in that moment to focus fully on all the important things your supervisor has to say about the project, engage in a discussion instead of memorising, and transcribe/make notes later on based on the recording. If you communicate your reasoning, your supervisor, too, should, hopefully, understand the advantages this solution brings.

Set and communicate boundaries and priorities

What's also often tricky is to set and keep boundaries with your supervisor. The first step is always to get to know your own boundaries and priorities by reflecting your values and goals. The second one is to be aware of those whenever a new request comes in and make an informed decision about how to react. You could ask yourself the following simple question: By saying "no" to this, what am I saying "yes" to? The answer might be "ensuring the good quality of something I'm already working on" or "more time to focus on my PhD project and handing it in on time" or simply "resting, and therefore keeping my sanity". Instead of literally saying "no" to your supervisor, you can therefore try to shift the focus to this alternative option e.g. by phrasing it as "I would rather/prefer...".

By the way, making your boundaries clear can also have many positive consequences, since it may increase your visibility and integrity as an independent researcher with your own goals and convictions. Also: your supervisor can only respect your boundaries if they know them!

Last, but not least: never rely on telepathy

Telepathy isn't possible yet. Thus, you still have to ask somebody what goes on in their mind if you want to avoid making wrong assumptions about their state of mind. The best practice for this is still to talk and keep communicating with a person. If this doesn't come naturally to you, choose the mode easiest for you, e.g. an email instead of a direct conversation. And remember: be brave! What's the worst that can happen? And before "bothering" someone, you can do this short self-check: if you were in the other persons position, would you see it as "bothering" or would you actually even welcome someone thinking and acting proactively?



Stefanie Henauer, Neuroscientist, Trainer & Coach

Stefanie Henauer has studied Psychology and Cognitive Neurosciences, followed by working multiple years as a researcher and scientific project manager. She is a trainer and coach for research and administrative staff, PhD students and PostDocs. At Scienza, she is an administrative assistant, project manager, trainer and coach.

Since 2012 Scienza offers 1:1- and team coaching, organizational development, conflict mediation as well as workshops. The workshop topics and areas of expertise include amongst others career development in research, leadership, diversity, self-care and conflict management.

Interview

Interview with Dr. Franziska Wölfl

by

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

1) After your PhD, you directly started as an Executive Search & Assessment Senior Associate at New Chapter, a company that specializes in recruitment in the healthcare, life sciences and education sectors. What originally attracted you to this job?

Looking at opportunities after my PhD, I quickly realized my main driver was my curiosity and my constant drive to learn new (sometimes niche) things. To best be able to work in executive search, you have to understand what issue(s) the hiring company is facing and what limits this specific company, which is a fun and exciting thing to uncover. I am very communicative, so the idea to talk to so many different people from such diverse backgrounds also played a huge part in it.

2) What does your work include and how does a typical workday look like?

One of the things, I enjoy most is the great variety on a day to day basis, albeit there is one common denominator: Communication.

If we just started with a new mandate, I typically spend some time doing either paper-based search in the topic or talking to people in the industry to get a feeling for the job. I spend a lot of time in conversation with either candidates, I'd like to encourage to move forward with an application or with industry leaders to get recommendations and unofficial feedback on people. If we are further along in the mandate, I am a in direct communications with the clients (oftentimes the leadership board or investor) and accompany our candidates throughout the process, sometimes indirect by just being there for any questions, sometimes very direct by being there during the interviews as well.

Within our company, I also took responsibility for our data base, which between troubleshooting, optimizing and answering questions can also take up a lot of my workday.

3) What are the most challenging and the most rewarding aspects of your work?

The most challenging aspect is probably adapting quickly to different people and their individual needs within the span of seconds during a chat and to always keep track of whom you spoke to, when, about what and why they are relevant for a specific position.

The most rewarding aspect is when you successfully complete a placement with a candidate that you feel will match the needs of the hiring company and vice versa. Especially if, after a few weeks of months you catch up with both sides and they are still really excited and happy about the match.

4) How does your experience from your PhD in Virology benefit you in your current position?

Directly, my PhD in virology helps me to get quicker into the industry topics especially when dealing with clients from life sciences. Indirectly, it has taught me many of the abilities needed here: reaching out, adapting to new ideas and processing huge quantities of data (and drawing conclusions). During PhD one learns to present difficult topics briefly, which greatly benefits me during client presentations as well.

5) What personal qualities do you think are important when someone is interested in a job like yours?

Curiosity, charm, the ability to think quick on your feet and adapt rapidly to different people

6) What was the best career advice you have received?

Get to know yourself better, know what makes you thrive. Focus on what brings you joy and try to incorporate it into your job.

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



Dr Franziska Wölfl Executive Search & Assessment Senior Associate at New Chapter

Franziska has studied Molecular Biotechnology in Heidelberg and earned her PhD at Medical School Hannover focussing on Virology before joining New Chapter in 2023. With New Chapter she worked for multiple big clients including University Hospitals, MedTech market leaders and privately owned healthcare companies. Outside of the job her main passion is sports, where she volunteers since 10 years at the German Athletics Association (DLV) as a ambassador for doping-prevention.

Reports

1st Round ACHIEVE Mentoring Mid-term Meeting

PD Dr. Hanna-Mari Baldauf, LMU Munich

17. - 18.10.2024, Hanover





The first ACHIEVE mentoring round was successfully launched in March this year with 10 mentees selected from 29 applicants. In addition to individual meetings with their mentors, all of whom are established members of the Society for Virology (GfV), a two-day on-site meeting in Hanover took place, where our mentees got the opportunity to meet each other in person and share experiences. We started with an introduction and collective feedback round, which gave a very positive feedback of the past interactions between mentees and mentors. After an extended networking / coffee break, the career session continued. Dr. Silke Hartmann (DZIF-Scientific Coordinator) and Dr. Jann-Patrick Pelz (MSD - Therapeutic Area Head) shared some personal experiences leading to their respective career decisions. Prof. Dr. Thomas Pietschmann (TWINCORE - Professor) highlighted the importance of teamwork and communication, which are the foundation of a productive and comfortable working atmosphere irrespective of one owns personal career choice. After these very fruitful insights and discussions, the evening ended in a nearby Italian restaurant. The second day was dedicated to the important topic of "getting" money", with Prof. Dr. Beate Sodeik (MHH Hannover) and Prof. Dr. Konstantin Sparrer (University Hospital Ulm) both providing insights into the DFG and funding opportunities for young researchers, respectively. We thank all participants for the productive meeting, true to our ACHIEVE mentoring mission - to learn from each other and start networking!

Importantly, we thank our sponsors: the German Society of Virology (GfV), DZIF and Infect-Net for supporting the ACHIEVE Mentoring Mid-Term Meeting.





Lab Rotation Report

Eva Müller, University Hospital Essen

During my two-week lab rotation in Prof. Daniel Sauter's group at the University Hospital in Tübingen, I had the opportunity to study the influence of various latency-reversing agents (LRAs) on cholesterol levels in different cell line models of HIV latency. In an RNA sequencing dataset from my collaboration partner Dylan Postmus from the Goffinet lab, we found that latently infected cells treated with the BET inhibitor JQ1 have an altered cholesterol metabolism. We speculated that these changes could impact the cholesterol levels in the cell. To test this hypothesis, we treated different HIV latency cell models with JQ1 but also with other LRAs.

We used three different LRAs: the HDAC inhibitor Panobinostat, the PKC activator Bryostatin-1, and the BET inhibitor JQ1. The cells were treated with these agents for 24 and 48 hours, after which we divided them for two distinct analyses. One set of cells underwent flow cytometry using a p24 antibody to measure the reactivation of the HIV genome, allowing us to assess the efficacy of the LRAs in reactivating latent HIV. For the other set, we used the Amplex Red Cholesterol Kit to quantify cholesterol levels and see how these treatments affected cholesterol within cells.







Our work included cells that required both S2 and S3 biosafety levels. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to get clearance for S3 work due to the short duration of my stay and the paperwork involved. Luckily, Dr. Kristina Hopfensperger and Isabell Haußmann stepped in to help by culturing and treating the cells in the S3 lab. For the first three days, I worked independently in the S2 lab with a J-lat clone, which had the nice side effect of allowing me to test and improve the live/dead staining and treatment protocol before we moved on to the S3 lab to test the U1 and JLEG2.1 cells. The JLEG 2.1 were developed by Dylan during his Ph.D and serve as a model for latent HIV-1 infection. Briefly, the cell line is a Jurkat cell sub-clone infected with a full-length HIV-1 NL4.3 reporter virus that features a GFP reporter protein. I prepared the 96-well plates with the different conditions, and Isabell and Kristina handled the treatments and culturing in the S3 lab. Without their willingness to take on the S3 work, this project wouldn't have been possible, so I owe them both a special thanks. But it wasn't just Kristina and Isabell who made my stay enjoyable. The entire team in Daniel's lab was incredibly friendly and helpful. They were always there to show me where to find things in the lab and were genuinely

interested in the research I was doing.

Beyond the lab, I had the pleasure of exploring the beautiful city of Tübingen. The city offers stunning landscapes perfect for hiking, a vibrant selection of bars and restaurants, and a fantastic public pool that was great for relaxing on sunny days.

Overall, this lab rotation was a success, both in terms of research and on a personal level. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Prof. Daniel Sauter for giving me the opportunity to work in his lab, providing all the necessary resources, and offering invaluable advice throughout the project. I'm also really grateful to his team for their constant support. This research opportunity was made possible by the generous funding provided by the GfV committee, and I am deeply honored to have been selected for this lab rotation.



Announcements

Upcoming jGfV events

ACHIEVE "How to..." series 2025 will continue.

More details will follow soon.

Zoom registration link

jGfV virtual virology lecture series

Every two months at 5:00 p.m. the program for 2025 is coming soon

jGfV ROUND

virtual 30-minute lunch discussion round on different topics:

- 09.01.2025 "Medicine & Clinical Research" with Marylyn Addo
- 06.02.2025 "Networking" with Gisa Gerold

Zoom registration link

2nd annual Young PI meeting

on the topic "Management". Organizers: Björn Meyer und Christina Karsten. Registration is open.

March 3-4, 2025 - Hamburg https://youngpi.g-f-v.org/

ACHIEVE Spring School

on the topic "AI - ACHIEVE Intelligence (in Virology)". Organizers: Stephanie Pfänder and Konstantin Sparrer. Registration is closed.

March 3-4, 2025 - Hamburg

https://achieve.g-f-v.org/

18th annual workshop of the working group "clinical virological research".

Organizers: Tina Ganzenmüller and Philipp Steininger. Registration will open soon.

May 15, 2025 - Würzburg https://clinviro.g-f-v.org/

Next deadlines:

Best season paper awards – 01.06.2025 Lab rotation scholarships – 15.04.2025 More information about our awards and scholarships can be found here:

https://g-f-v.org/wp-content/ uploads/2024/06/jGfV-awards-andscholarships-06_2024.pdf

In this section, we will post job vacancies or workshops/conferences.

If you are aware of any advertisements, please email to jGfV@G-f-V.org or post them on SI ACK

Conferences / Workshops / Seminars

<u>28 January – 29 January 2025</u>

10th Swiss Virology Meeting Bern, Switzerland

Link to registration

27 February - 1 March 2025

Molecular determinants of zoonotic viruses and beyond Freiburg, Germany

Link to registration

4 March - 7 March 2025

34th Annual meeting of the society for virology Hamburg, Germany

Link to registration

23 March - 26 March 2025

Annual conference of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology Bochum, Germany

Link to registration

29 March - 30 March 2025

16th Plant Virus Disease Workshop Kurashiki, Japan

Link to registration

31 March - 3 April 2025

Microbiology Society Annual Conference Liverpool, UK

Link to reigstration

7 April - 9 April 2025

Emerging viruses and new vaccines from research to public health Geneva, Switzerland

Link to registration

27 April - 30 April 2025

9th European Congress of Virology 2025 Cavtat/Dubrovnik, Croatia

Link to registration

22 June - 27 June 2025

XIXth Negative-strand RNA Virus Meeting Montpellier, France Link to registration

<u>9 July – 11 July</u>

BatID 2025-International Symposium on the Infectious Diseases of Bats Chicago, USA

Link to registration

14 July - 17 July 2025

44th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Virology Montreal, Canada Link to registration

14 July - 17 July 2025

FEMS Micro 2025 Milan, Italy Link to registration

Vaccancies

For PhDs:

PhD position in Medical Virology

University Hospital Frankfurt Link to vacancy

PhD Student

Leibniz Institute of Virology (LIV), Hamburg

Link to vacancy

11 PhD positions

University Lübeck and University Hamburg

Link to vacancy

Scholarships for an experimental medical doctoral thesis in infection research

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Universität Hamburg, Leibniz Institute of Virology, Bernhard NochtInstitute for Tropical Medicine, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Centre for Structural Systems Biology and the Universitätsspital Basel, Switzerland.

Link to vacancy

For Postdocs:

Postdoctoral Researcher (PostDoc)

The Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Greifswald, Riems, Germany Link to vacancy

MIMS Group Leader in Molecular Infection Medicine

Umeå University, Faculty Office of Medicine

Link to vacancy

Funding and Awards

For PhDs:

Boehringer Ingelheim

PhD Fellowship

Deadline: 1st of February 2025

More information

PhD fellowship (DAAD)

More information

For Postdocs:

Individual Research Grants (DFG)

Can be submitted at any time

More information

<u>Humboldt Research Fellowship</u>

Can be submitted at any time

More information

Walter Benjamin Programme (DFG)

Can be submitted at any time

More information

Marie Curie Fellowship

Deadline: 9th April 2025

More information

HFSP Fellowship

Deadline: 14th May 2025

More information

Emmy Noether Programme (DFG)

Can be submitted at any time

More information

Useful Websites

Graduate Student Funding Opportunities – compiled by the Johns Hopkins University

Nature careers

Cell career network

Jobvector

German Research Foundation (DFG)

German Society of Virology (GFV)

Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS)

Do viruses have favourite holidays?

Do mosquitoes prefer beer drinkers?

Can you sneeze with your eyes open?



Junior Group Workshop for the European Society for Virology: Imaging Viruses

February 13th-14th, 2025 CBMSO-CSIC, Madrid, Spain

Venue The Center for Molecular Biology SeveroOchoa (CBMSO-CSIC) Calle Nicolás Cabrera, 1, Fuencarral-El Pardo, 28049 Madrid https://www.cbm.uam.es/

Train: CantoblancoUniversidad station of CercaníasRENFE

Bus: Lines 714, 827, 827A, and 828

Taxi/ Car: From Madrid take the M607, from Alcobendas take the M616

The meeting targets early-career scientists, ranging from PhD students to newly established principal investigators. We want to provide early-career virologists within the European Society of Virology a platform to connect and establish collaborations with researchers around Europe and thereby support in their pursuit of independence. The event will cover various aspects of imaging, including live cell imaging, quantitative imaging, antiviral immune cell dynamics, and correlative imaging.

Keynote speakers

Julian Kompa (Kai Johnsson lab, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research Heidelberg)

Dr. Siân Culley (King's College London)

Dr. Eric Snijder (Leiden University Medical Center)

Dr. Wolfgang Kastenmüller (University Würzburg)

Workshop price:

•€120 (VAT included) Includes scientific program, coffee breaks, lunch breaks, and conference dinner.

Registration is open until 20th of January

Please note that the number of participants is limited

Link to the registration form below

https://form.jotform.com/243084567357364





Preliminary MeetingProgramme

Thursday 13h of February 2025

13.00-14.20 Registration and lunch

14.20-14.30 Carlos Gallego and Victoria Castro

Welcome and info

Session I: Live cell imaging

Chair: Visa Ruokolainen (University of Jyväskylä)

14.30-15.00 **Julian Kompa** (Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg)

15.00-16.00 Presentations and discussion (12 + 3 min presentation)

16.00-17.00 Coffee break + Poster Session (1)

Session II: Quantitative imaging

Chairs: Salla Mattola (University of Jyväskylä)

Dörte Stalling (Center for Structural Systems Biology, Hamburg)

17.00-17.30 **Dr. Siân Culley** (King's College London)

17.30-18.30 Presentations and discussion (12 + 3 min presentation)

18.30-

Welcome reception

Friday 14th of February 2025

Session III: Correlative imaging

Chair: Victoria Castro (The National Center for Biotechnology, CNB-CSIC, Madrid)

09.30-10.00 **Dr. Eric Snijder** (Leiden University Medical Center, LUMC) 10.00-11.00 Presentations and discussion (12 + 3 min presentation)

11.00-12.00 Coffee break + Poster Session (2)

Session IV: Antiviral immune cell dynamics

Chairs: Valeria Fumagalli (Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan)
Carlos Gallego (The Center for Molecular Biology Severo Ochoa, Madrid)

12.00-12.30 **Dr. Wolfgang Kastenmüller** (University Würzburg)

12.30-13.30 Presentations and discussion (12 + 3 min presentation)

13.30-14.10 Discussion and concluding remarks

14.10-14.40 Tour of the imaging facility

15.00-- Lunch and the end of the meeting

Geneva Centre for Emerging Viral Diseases



Centre for Vaccinology

April 7-9, 2025 | Geneva Switzerland

