



Open positions for one Postdoc and one PhD student

Two research positions funded by VolkswagenStiftung
in Prof. Utz Fischer's group at Theodor-Boveri-Institute of Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg.

You will participate in a structure-based drug design approach to combat the zoonotic risk imposed by poxviral reservoirs and human pathogenic poxvirus strains. To this end, we target the unique poxviral transcription machinery, which relies exclusively on virus-encoded proteins. As a basis, we recently reported the isolation and comprehensive structural investigation of this machinery in different phases of action. This enables the identification and design of small molecules that interfere with poxviral gene expression and their subsequent translation into antiviral pharmaceuticals. The unexpected severity of the ongoing monkeypox outbreak underlines the timeliness of this project.

Our recent publications on the topic:

Grimm et al., *Cell* **179** (7): 1537-1550 (2019)

Hillen et al., *Cell* **179** (7): 1525-1536 (2019)

Grimm et al., *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.* **28** (10): 779-788 (2021)

Grimm et al., *TIBS* (2022)

Requirements:

The highly motivated candidates should have a solid background in biochemistry and/or virology. Good communication and teamwork skills and fluency in English are essential. The **Postdoc** position requires a PhD in life sciences. The **PhD Student** position requires an M.Sc. in life sciences or equivalent for enrolment at the Würzburg Graduate School of Life Sciences (GSLs). Experience in protein biochemistry, biophysics or structural biology is beneficial but not a strict prerequisite.

We offer:

A highly stimulating international research environment in a well-equipped, modern lab at Würzburg University's Biocenter, which provides diverse opportunities for collaboration. The GSLs provides the framework for a structured PhD education program. Remuneration will be according to public service positions in Germany, 100% TV-L E13 (Postdoc) or 65% TV-L E13 (PhD student). Disabled applicants will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent qualifications.

Application/Contact:

Please send your application package, which should include a statement of motivation, a detailed CV and the contact details of at least two references, as a single file PDF by e-mail to utz.fischer@uni-wuerzburg.de. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive.

For further information, please contact Utz Fischer (utz.fischer@uni-wuerzburg.de, Tel.: +49 931-31 84029).