

Call for Applications: 2 PhD student positions

Transregional Collaborative Research Center (TRR) 425/SFB DEFINE University Hospital Würzburg/University Würzburg, Germany

The newly established Transregional Collaborative Research Center (TRR) 425 DEFINE is a multidisciplinary research consortium uniting leading scientists in medicine (dermatology, pediatrics, internal medicine and surgery), molecular biology, immunology, biomedicine, and system research to investigate fundamental mechanisms underlying development of diseases related to desmosome dysfunction.

Within TRR 425, project C02 investigates the role of Armadillo proteins Plakoglobin and Plakophilin-2 on intestinal epithelial barrier and local immune response. To uncover critical interconnections and mechanisms, the project combines *in vivo* and *in vitro* approaches including intestinal organoids and will translate findings to patients suffering from known desmosomal mutations. The main goal is to explore and define the role of epithelial Armadillo proteins in the gut as crucial regulators for cell-cell connections and immune responses and to determine potential novel therapeutic aspects in the long-term. Therefore, the University Hospital Würzburg invites applications for 2 PhD positions to support project C02: "Regulation of barrier integrity by Armadillo proteins in digestive tract inflammation".

2 PhD student positions (m/f/x)

Your profile:

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, biochemistry, molecular medicine, biophysics or a related field
- Experience with laboratory methods relevant to the specific project (wet lab)
- Strong interest in mechanistic and translational biomedical research as well as interdisciplinary collaboration
- Motivation, reliability and ability to work independently
- Excellent communication skills and proficiency in English

Your responsibilities:

- Conduct experiments as outlined and approved in the TRR 425 research program
- Analyze data and contribute to scientific publications
- Present results at internal meetings, retreats and national/international conferences
- Active participation in consortium-level collaborations

We offer:

- Fully funded the position according to DFG/TV-L guidelines
- Access to state-of-the-art research facilities at the University Hospital Würzburg

- Integration into an experienced and supportive research team with established expertise in the applied methods
- Structured doctoral training within the Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG) of the TRR 425
- Supportive environment for researchers with diverse backgrounds and/or families
- Highly collaborative and international research environment
- Close exchange with researchers from Marburg and Munich within the TRR 425

Application Process

Please submit the following documents as a single PDF file:

- Cover letter explaining your motivation
- Curriculum vitae
- Copies of academic degrees and transcripts
- Contact information for 2–3 academic references

Contact & Submission

Applications should be sent to: karriereportal@ukw.de

For further information: kelm_m@ukw.de