We are looking to support our rapidly growing team as soon as possible a:

PhD Student (f/m/x) – Immunology

Department I for Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases

TV-L: 25 h/week (64,94%)

limited for 3 years according to WissZeitVG (Third-party funded project)

Your salary will be based on TV-L

Your tasks

- Performance of high-dimensional flow cytometry to characterize human virus-specific T-cell responses
- Application and optimization of metabolic assays to define functional and metabolic phenotypes of T-cells
- Analysis of immunological and clinical cohort data and
  contribution to integrative data interpretation
- Close collaboration with clinicians and national/international partners
- Presentation of the data within meetings as well as national and international congresses
- Publication of the results in high-impact journals

Your profile

- You hold a Master's degree in Immunology, Biology, Biomedicine, Biotechnology or a related field
- Strong interest in T-cell biology, immunometabolism, and human translational immunology
- Experience with cell culture, flow cytometry or human
  immune cell assays is highly desirable
- Familiarity with metabolic assays, cohort studies, or viral immunology is an advantage but not required
- High motivation to work with patient-derived samples and translational research approaches

Your future with us

We are one of the leading university hospitals in Germany and network research, teaching and health care at the highest level. That's why many things are a lot bigger for us: the spectrum of exciting development opportunities. The limitless openness with which specialists from all over the world work together here. Or our commitment as an employer to support all employees as best we can in reconciling their job with their goals and life situations.

This is the University Hospital of Cologne: Everything but ordinary.

Your future in detail

Our research group (AG Translational Immunometabolism) is interested in the interplay between metabolism and
immunity.
The number of people with obesity is continuously rising but new weight loss drugs have revolutionised the treatment over the last years. Obesity leads to a severe course of infections, but the underlying mechanisms are not fully understood. The PhD project will investigate the impact of obesity, weight loss and novel metabolic therapies on antiviral T-cell immunity.
The successful candidate will utilize high-dimensional flow

- Independent and structured work style, enthusiasm for
  teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Excellent English communication skills, both spoken and written

Our offer

- **Everything but ordinary:** You can expect a secure job in a challenging, innovative environment – including company pension schemes and regular working hours without business trips.
- **Work-life balance:** Whether full-time or part-time, with or without children – with numerous support options, we will find the right path together.
- **Team spirit in R(h)ine culture:** You will be warmly welcomed by an interdisciplinary team that values mutual respect and helpfulness.
- **Strong perspectives:** We offer extensive training opportunities – so you can continuously grow and set new goals.

cytometry and metabolic assays with the goal to identify
mechanisms that impair antiviral immunity in obese individuals and define metabolic pathways that could be targeted to improve infection outcomes.
We are a young and dynamic research group funded by the
Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung and the University of Cologne. We offer team spirit and a supportive environment with close supervision by the PI. We have strong local and international collaborations, and our group is part of the Translational Research Unit – Infectious Diseases (TRU-ID) within the Division of Infectious Diseases. The TRU-ID conducts research aimed at improving our immunological understanding of infectious diseases with the goal to develop innovative therapies for bacterial, viral and fungal infections.

Applications from female candidates are expressly welcome and will be given priority in the event of equal suitability, competence and professional performance. People with disabilities are welcome to apply and will be treated preferentially in the event of equal suitability and qualification.

Contact

Dr. Dr. Nathalie Schmidt

Universitätsklinikum Köln AöR
Geschäftsbereich Personal
Kerpener Str. 62
50937 Köln

Uniklinik Köln Karriere

Application deadline: 22 February 2026

Job-ID: 6sc1x3r9

apply now

We look forward to receiving your application and getting to know you!