Prof. Irmgard Förster, PhD

Life and Medical Sciences Institute (LIMES)

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

Life and Medical Sciences Institute (LIMES), Immunology and Environment, Director

E-Mail: irmgard.foerster@uni-bonn.de

Research Expertise

Prof. Förster has special expertise in the functional characterization of macrophages and dendritic cells using conditional gene targeting techniques. She is interested in cell migration and immune regulation in barrier organs, and has profound experience with mouse models of atopic dermatitis, inflammatory bowel disease and bacterial infection.

Education / Training

University of Cologne, Germany, Genetics, PhD, 1988
University of Marburg, Germany, Human Biology, Diploma, 1985

Appointments / Positions Held

2012 - present
W3 Professor of Immunology and Environment Life and Medical Sciences (LIMES) Institute, University of Bonn

2005 - 2012
Laboratory Head of Molecular Immunology
IUF - Leibniz Institute for Environmental Medicine at the University of Düsseldorf, Germany

2004 - 2012
C3 Professor of Molecular Immunology, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

1998 - 2004
Head of the Volkswagen Foundation Research Group Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene and the second Medical Clinic, Technical University of Munich

1997 - 1998
Assistant Professor, Institute for Genetics, University of Cologne

1993 - 1997
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Genetics, University of Cologne

1990 - 1993
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of California, San Francisco, USA

1988 -1990
Research Fellow, Institute for Genetics, University of Cologne

Honors / Awards

2016 - 2020
Member of the Scientific Committee of the HZI (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung GmbH)

2016 - 2020
Member of the DFG Immunology Committee

Since 06/2012
Leibniz Chair at the IUF Düsseldorf

1994
Bennigsen Foerder Prize, Ministry of Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia

1991 - 1992
Research grant from the DFG

1985 - 1988
Research Scholarship from the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

10 Most Relevant Publications for Prof. Irmgard Förster

1. Didiovic, S., Opitz, F.V., Holzmann, B., **Förster, I.**, Weighardt, H. 2015. Requirement of MyD88 signaling in keratinocytes for Langerhans cell migration and initiation of atopic dermatitis-like symptoms in mice. Eur J Immunol. 2015 Dec 23
2. Globisch, T, Steiner, N*, Fülle, L*, Lukacs-Kornek, V, Degrandi, D, Dresing, P, Alferink, J, Lang, R, Pfeffer, K, Beyer, M., Weighardt, H, Kurts, C, Ulas, T, Schultze JL and **Förster, I**. 2014. Cytokine-dependent regulation of denditic cell differentiation in the splenic microenvironment. Eur. J. Immunol. 44, 500-510.
3. Köhler, T, Reizis, B, Johnson, RS, Weighardt, H and **Förster, I**. 2012. Influence of hypoxia inducible factor 1a on dendritic cell differentiation and migration. Eur. J. Immunol. 42, 1226-1236.
4. Stutte S, Quast T, Gerbitzki N, Savinko T, Novak N, Reifenberger J, Homey B, Kolanus W, Alenius H and **Förster I**. 2010. Requirement of CCL17 for CCR7- and CXCR4-dependent migration of cutaneous dendritic cells. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 107: 8736-41 .
5. Semmling V, Lukacs-Kornek V, Thaiss C, Quast T, Hochheiser K, Panzer U, Rossjohn J, Perlmutter P, Cao J, Godfrey D, Savage P, Knolle P, Kolanus W, **Förster, I*** and Kurts C*. 2010. Alternative cross-priming through CCL17/CCR4-mediated CTL attraction towards NKT cell-licensed dendritic cells. Nat. Immunol. 11: 313-20.
6. Buch T, Polic B, Clausen BE, Weiss S, Akilli Ö, Chang CH, Flavell R, Schulz A, Jonjic S, Waisman A and **Förster, I**. 2006. MHC class II expression through a hitherto unknown pathway supports T helper cell dependent immune responses: implications for MHC class II deficiency. Blood. 107, 1434-1444.
7. Alferink J*, Lieberam I*, Reindl W, Behrens A, Weiß S, Hüser N, Gerauer K, Ross R, Reske-Kunz A, Ahmad-Nejad P, Wagner H and **Förster, I**. 2003. Compartmentalized production of CCL17 in vivo: strong inducibility in peripheral dendritic cells contrasts selective absence from the spleen. J. Exp. Med. 197, 585-599.
8. Lieberam I and **Förster, I**. 1999. The murine beta-chemokine TARC is expressed by subsets of dendritic cells and attracts primed CD4+ T cells. Eur. J. Immunol. 29: 2684-2694.
9. Clausen BE, Burkhardt C, Reith W, Renkawitz R and **Förster, I**. 1999. Conditional gene targeting in macrophages and granulocytes using LysMcre mice. Transg. Res. 8: 265-277.
10. Takeda K*, Clausen BE*, Kaisho T, Tsujimura T, Terada N, **Förster, I*** and Akira S*. 1999. Enhanced Th1 activity and development of chronic enterocolitis in mice devoid of Stat3 in macrophages and neutrophils. Immunity. 10: 39-49.

*These authors contributed equally