Dear Cluster members, associated scientists and friends,

the Corona Virus is still a part of our daily life routine and in this newsletter we asked some of our members to tell us, if anything changed in their working routine due to Corona.

Next to that we are happy to introduce you new members, a (not so) new Cluster speaker and a new member of our Executive board. The Post Doc Orga Team introduces itself and we want to remind you that we have lots of great software within the cluster available for you to perform excellent research.

We hope you still have a great summer and take care.

Your Cluster Coordination Office
New Speaker and Board Member

After two successful years as one of our Speakers, Joachim Schultze resigned from his positions as Speaker and Executive Board Member to take new challenges.

In May 2020, we elected his successors according to our bylaws.

**New Spokesperson (LIMES):**

Waldemar Kolanus  
LIMES Life & Medical Sciences Institute  
Molecular Immunology and Cell Biology

Prof. Kolanus and his group are interested in intracellular signal transduction events which control leukocyte adhesion, migration, and effector functions. The main emphasis of their current research activities lies in elucidating the role of integrin adhesion receptors and the cytoskeleton in the functional adaptation of leukocyte motility to specific microenvironments, some of which include force-dependent slow migration of immune cells on and across barriers, versus force-independent, fast migration in the interstitium.

**New Executive Board member (LIMES):**

Elvira Mass  
LIMES Life & Medical Sciences Institute  
Developmental Biology of the Innate Immune System

Prof. Mass and her group study the ontogeny and functions of tissue-resident macrophages - a diverse family of specialized phagocytic cells of the innate immune system that are present in most tissues. Recent work has led to a major paradigm shift regarding the origin of resident macrophages, as it showed that in many organs they develop during embryogenesis and self-renew in steady state in adult tissues with little contribution from monocytes. Her work could show that macrophages represent a founding cell type within most organ anlagen, and as such most likely contribute to homeostatic organ functions, but also to disease processes.

The Cluster would like to welcome Waldemar and Elvira in their new roles. We are looking forward to an active exchange in our meetings. Furthermore, we would like to thank Joachim for his engagement as Speaker and wish him all the best with his current and future endeavors. We are happy that he will continue to support ImmunoSensation² as project leader and member of the Steering Committee.
News from the PostDoc Team

Starting in 2020, the Immunosensation Cluster is introducing a new program for all PostDoc members of the Cluster. This is a new platform for the development of your careers, skills and also network while working in Bonn and beyond.

This program is run by PostDocs, for PostDocs, with key support of the ImmunoSensation Cluster. We are planning the first Young Scientists Symposium, which will be held in 2021. This two-day meeting is open to PostDocs and final year PhD students from Bonn and the rest of the world. With this conference we will give you the opportunity to create new networks while also highlighting Bonn as a center for Immunology. We are also planning lunch seminars and workshops where you will get material for the development of key skills, from leadership to grant writing and animal ethics in Germany.

Another goal of this program is to promote collaboration and networking between our PostDocs, each bringing their own set of skills and knowledge. As many of the PostDocs in Bonn come from all parts of Germany, Europe and the world, we want to create an environment for everyone to feel quickly at home in Bonn for this new chapter of their lives. To achieve this, networking events including BBQ nights in summer, receptions in the colder months and writing cafés will be organized.

As all of you know, the COVID-19 crisis requires all of us to maintain a certain degree of isolation. Thus, as long as contact restrictions are in place, we will use online systems for seminars and workshops and will wait for the restrictions to ease up before planning in-person networking events.

If you’re interested in staying up-to-date on events of the PostDoc program, visit this page regularly or sign up for our new mailing list.

If you’d like to contact the members of the PostDoc Organization Team to pass on ideas for seminars/workshops or with more general questions or comments, please email us at postdoc_orgateam_immunosensation@listen.uni-bonn.de.

Find here the PostDoc Site on our Homepage.
New Cluster Members

ImmunoSensation is growing and we welcome our new members!

Dr. Selina Jorch
Institute of Experimental Immunology
Faculty of Medicine
University of Bonn
Website

Prof. Peter Krawitz
Institute for Genomic Statistics and Bioinformatics
Faculty of Medicine
University of Bonn
Website

Prof. Matthias Schmid
Institute for Medical Biometry, Computer Science and Epidemiology
Faculty of Medicine
University of Bonn
Website

Prof. Jonathan Schmid-Burgk
Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Pharmacology
Faculty of Medicine
University of Bonn
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Find here a selection of our latest publications

Lipid-droplet formation drives pathogenic group 2 innate lymphoid cells in airway inflammation. Immunity, 2020 April. Fotios Karagiannis, Schekufe Kharabi Masouleh [...], Michael Hözel, Christoph Thiele & Christoph Wilhelm
More information here.

Immune sensing of synthetic, bacterial and protozoan RNA by Toll-like receptor 8 requires coordinated processing by RNase T2 and RNase 2. Immunity, 2020 April. Thomas Ostendorf [...], Achim Hörauf [...], Martin Schlee, Gunther Hartmann, Eva Bartok.
More information here.

More information here.

More information here.

Mutations in SREBF1, Encoding Sterol Regulatory Element Binding Transcription Factor 1, Cause Autosomal Dominant IFAP Syndrome. American Journal of Human Genetics 2020 June. Huijun Wang, [...] Regina Betz, Zhimiao Lin
More information here.

FIND ALL RECENT PUBLICATIONS HERE
Wanderlust

Since travel and long-distance journeys are rather unusual these days we provide you with some lovely pictures from far away places. Make sure to get distracted by the beauty of nature. Pictures by Catherine Drescher

Active volcanoes, Patapampa Pass, Andes, Peru

Akaroa, Canterbury region, South Island, New Zealand

Colors of Stobosa, La Trinidad, Philippines

Sunset at Mount Phousi, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Sa Pa, Lào Cai Province, Vietnam

The Great Wall of China, Jinshanling section, Beijing, China

Neak Pean temple, Angkor, Cambodia

Wat Phan Tao, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Kuang Si Waterfall, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
Unusual times require new measures. This also applies to our monthly Cluster Lecture Series. So on April 7th, the first ONLINE Cluster Lecture Series with Jan Riemer (Cologne) was offered through a Zoom Meeting.

The access data for the Zoom Meeting will be sent to registered participants shortly before the seminar. The individual registration link can be seen on our homepage under Events.

The speaker is still briefly introduced by the respective host and following this, the presentation begins using the screen transmission by the presenter. Questions can still be asked, either using the chat function or in the discussion round at the end.

In order to make the presentation as pleasant as possible for everyone, participants are encouraged to turn off the microphones to avoid background noises unless they want to ask a question. The cameras are welcome to remain on, but are not mandatory.

The upcoming ONLINE Cluster Lecture Series:

- July 7, 2020, 12 am: Prof. Petr Broz (University of Lausanne) - REGISTER
- July 14, 2020, 2pm: Dr. Bastian Höchst (Technische Universität München) - REGISTER
- August 4, 2020, 12 am: Prof. Markus Feuerer (RCI Regensburger Centrum für Interventionelle Immunologie) - REGISTER

**PEOPLE**

**How work changes during Corona I**

We asked some of our members to give us a feedback of their work life.

Dagmar Wachten, Institute of Innate Immunity

**How did your every day working routine change during the corona virus pandemic?**

I think this was pretty much the same for every PI: you start and end the day with a Zoom meeting. I have to say that I prefer personal meetings with my people in the lab, but with external collaborators etc. this worked quite well. To organize the lab work with one person in the room etc. was a struggle to start with, but I think in the end, it worked okish. We were lucky that we were not in full lock down and I think the routine of coming to work helped a lot to go through the crisis.
Do you think the corona virus pandemic turned something for the better? Please explain.

I enjoyed that meetings were reduced to the essential minimum and that I did not have to travel so much. We used the time to concentrate on finishing manuscripts and writing grant applications.

What are your main learnings during the corona virus pandemic?

I think it really helped to focus on the essential parts in your work life without being distracted by endless meetings, which in the end were not really productive.

Maike Effern, Institute of Experimental Oncology

How did your everyday working routine change during the corona virus pandemic?

In the beginning of the pandemic I worked from home for seven weeks. During this time, I focussed on paperwork that I never really had the time to do before. I also signed up for two online classes to acquire new skills that could be useful in the future. Although I was on the phone with colleagues a lot and we had video conferences quite frequently, I felt pretty lonely during this time as I was isolating at home. I have been back in the lab since almost six weeks by now and we are required to wear masks in the offices and in the lab. Wearing the mask does not interrupt the daily routine and it is just something that we have to get used to. However, social gatherings like for a birthday celebration or just a simple coffee with you colleagues have obviously changed and are just possible under special precautions.

Do you think the corona virus pandemic turned something for the better? Please explain.

I think that digitalisation made a huge leap in the last couple of months as we did not have another choice than have meetings online. People really had to deal with modern communication technology. I also think that some people realised that working from home from time to time can be way more productive than working in a crowded office. One other thing that we learned during the pandemic is what meeting could really have been an e-mail in the first place and could possible save some time in the future.

What are your main learnings during the corona virus pandemic?

I learned for myself how important my colleagues are for my social life and how much they contribute to my mental health. I also learned to appreciate how important in person communication is as a lot of small gestures and facial expression are lost during video conferences. I think that networking works simply better when you are standing face to face with another person.
Elvira Mass, LIMES Institute

How did your everyday working routine change during the corona virus pandemic?

Since we went into minimal operation mode at LIMES in mid-March, it didn’t make any sense to go to work anymore. For 9 weeks I stayed at home with only a few hours/week in the institute, mostly to sign papers. During the first week, I was feeling paralyzed and couldn’t do much since the situation was so surreal. I canceled all conferences, hotels, and flights. My students had to do the same, which I really regret since it would have been their first opportunity to present their data at an international conference. But we’re all creatures of habit, so I got into my new routine. Most of the time I was stuck in Zoom meetings and in Slack chats since this replaced any conversation/lab meeting/short project discussion that I had during the day at work. I wrote grants, reviewed papers, etc. and everything started to feel “normal” since my work happens mostly on the desktop or in conversations. Then, 2 weeks ago we were awakened from our slumbers and started to go back to the lab, with physical distancing and face masks. It took (and maybe still takes) me and my students some effort to go back to the institute. And it is and will remain weird and unnatural to talk to my students via Zoom while they are sitting in the next room....

Do you think the corona virus pandemic turned something for the better? Please explain.

For PhD students that just started and those that were almost finished with their thesis, this crisis was probably a bless. My new PhD student had the time to read a lot, think about her project and write a grant application for a PhD fellowship. Many PhDs at their “finish line” were forced to stay at home and actually write their thesis. And this may be beneficiary for some, since work in the lab is never done....

What are your main learnings during the corona virus pandemic?

„You only value something when it’s gone“ (see picture, Mass lab space - taken in July 2019)
Marc Sylvester, Core Facility Mass Spectrometry

How did your every day working routine change during the corona virus pandemic?

Apart from not-meeting people in person the work itself has stayed largely the same. There was only a short dip in demand for our facility. But time is even more limited now with strict shifts and a family where everybody has new requirements of themselves.

Do you think the corona virus pandemic turned something for the better? Please explain.

It accelerates some projects like e-learning and triggers reflection about what is necessary, important, and urgent.

What are your main learnings during the corona virus pandemic?

1. Nothing is impossible (concerning resources). 2. Old structures can adapt to new challenges if people share a goal. 3. We are pretty lucky to live in a relatively robust society.

Amir Kayvanoo, LIMES Institute

How did your every day working routine changed during the corona virus pandemic?

During the lockdown, at the beginning it was quite a confusing situation as nobody had a clear thought what is going to happen and in which direction the situation is going. It was pretty new to everyone. One obvious effect of it was that we stopped our lab work until further notices but after sometime things got better and once the institute came up with different plans on how to confront the situation, the lab work started to begin with this difference that we had to be more organized due to the restrictions.

Do you think the corona virus pandemic turned something for the better? Please explain.

This epidemy reminded us with all the current advances how fragile our current situation can be and gave us a push to think about consequences of our action in daily life and specially in the nature. For working parents, it was also a good practice on how they can combine life and work better as they had to mainly work from home during the lock down. Many people...
How work changes during Corona IV

We asked some of our members to give us a feedback of their work life.

started using bikes and avoided other transportations and I guess the lock down was also a good short rest for the nature.

What are your main learnings during the corona virus pandemic?

I guess the current pandemic thought us the power of virtual world and how we can transfer many things that we do in the real life such as education, conferences and workshop simply from home and through virtual meetings. This is a long-lasting change that would stay even after corona virus epidemy.

UPCOMING Workshops

Please register in eTraining for the workshops. If the courses are fully booked, please put your name on the waiting list. This way we can offer a second course if there are enough people interested.

BIGS Workshop: Scientific Writing (Meghan Campbell)

When? August 05-06, 2020 9am to 5pm
Where? online via Zoom
Covering a broad range of topics relating to scientific writing, the objective of the scientific writing course is not just to learn how to write a scientific manuscript, but how to write a good manuscript and then publish it successfully. We will cover that best way to start the writing process, including making clear and effective figures.

BIGS Workshop: Good Scientific Practice (Peter Schröder)

When? November 03, 2020 9 am to 6 pm
Where? tba
The workshop is based on the DFG recommendations on Good Scientific Practice and local guidelines. The workshop will pick up existing problems and work on solutions.

Cluster Workshop: Improve your visibility - Career planning & Networking

When? August 18 - 20, 2020
Where? tba
Application deadline: July 1st, 2020
Description: Young Scientists often hear the demands: “Plan your career, build networks and increase your visibility.” But how can the scientist actually implement this in the daily work? We want to address these topics in the workshop. We look at the various professional alternatives for doctoral students. We analyse the individual values that serve very well as the basis for career decisions. You will develop your career plans and receive collegial feedback.

BIGS Workshop: Public Outreach for Scientists (Elisabeth Jurack)

When? September 11, 2020, from 9 am to 1 pm
Where? online via Zoom
In this seminar you will learn about ways science can be presented to the public and how you - as a scientist - can promote your own scientific findings.
The application for Fellowships for the 12th DGfI Autumn School 2020 is open.

The fellowship covers the registration fee including courses, accommodation, full board and social program.

What?
The DGfI Autumn School „Current Concepts in Immunology“

When?
October 04-09, 2020

Where?
Merseburg (Sachsen-Anhalt)

Application deadline: June 22, 2020

Please send your application (including the attached application form, a letter of motivation and an abstract) to applications-immunosensation@ticket.uni-bonn.de

The Autumn School offers an up-to-date educational journey through the immune system for everyone including students, postdocs and group leaders with a background in natural sciences or medicine. The program includes lectures by internationally renowned experts, student presentations as well as interactive sessions to meet the speakers and companies to foster networking within our immunological community.

UPCOMING

Cluster Science Days 2020

This year’s registration for the Cluster Science Days is open.

Digital
Cluster Science Days

November 9th/10th, 2020

Please register until September 20th, 2020 here
https://www.control.org/cluster-science-days-2020/

For questions concerning our 2020 Digital Cluster Science Days please do not hesitate to contact us at immunosensation@uni-bonn.de
Imprint

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ABOUT   The ImmunoSensation² Cluster of Excellence of the University of Bonn, has been funded by the German Research Foundation since 2012.

WEB     www.immunosensation.de

ImmunoSensation²
the immune sensory system - their cluster of excellence