

**Job announcement No. 209/2023**

The department Viral Immunology of Prof. Dr. Luka Cicin-Sain at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) in Braunschweig, Germany is an international leader in studies of antiviral immunity. We study viral infections in animal models and in models of primary human cell infections to develop innovative vaccination and immunotherapeutic strategies. We offer a position as

**Doctoral Researcher (f/m/d)**

**Project description:**

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) induces the strongest T cell immune response in human medicine. To understand the potential of this response in vaccine vector concepts, but also in protection against CMV infection and disease, your project shall focus on studies of T-cell responses to CMV infection in animal models and in human cell culture systems. You will use state of the art virus mutagenesis, real-time imaging of virus infection dynamics and single-cell transcriptomics to identify and optimize highly innovative antiviral vaccines and immunotherapeutics.

**Qualifications:**

- Master's Degree/Diploma (or equivalent) in Biology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Medicine, or a related field of the life sciences
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)
- Ability to work independently and as part of an international team
- Ideally, a background in virology or immunology, but candidates with expertise in genetics, flow-cytometry, microscopy or animal models of infection will be considered.

People with severe disabilities and equivalent professional qualifications who are suitable for the position are given preference. The HZI strives for professional equality between women and men. The position is suitable for part-time work.

**We offer:**

- Modern laboratories, including S3 unit
- State-of-the-art analytical instrumentation
- Ample biological profiling platforms (*in vitro* and *in vivo*)
- A lively scientific community
- 30 days vacation, (24.12. & 31.12. are considered as completely free days)
- An annual additional payment (Weihnachtsgeld) analogue to § 20 TVöD
- Social security included
- Flexible working hours and workplace design
- DO IT- PhD initiative <https://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/de/karriere/do-it-doktorandeninitiative>
- a corporate culture of appreciation and promotion of equal opportunities
- Welcome Office
- Buddy System for new doctoral researchers
- Family Office, Child Holiday Care

The successful candidate will be integrated in the HZI International Graduate School for Infection Research (GS-FIRE) which provides an innovative structured PhD programme within the field of Infection Research <https://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/de/karriere/graduierenschule/curriculum/>.

**Starting date:** 01/04/2024 or later - Initial contract for 3 years  
**Salary:** alike TVöD E13 (65%)  
**Probation period:** 6 months  
**Published on:** 18 December 2023  
**Closing date:** 21 January 2024  
**Application:** Applicants are required to complete the online application form here: <https://hzi.opencampus.net/> (Please select Job No. **209/2023**).

For more details regarding the position, please contact Prof. Dr. Luka Cicin-Sain via email: [lcs09@helmholtz-hzi.de](mailto:lcs09@helmholtz-hzi.de), or by phone: +49 531 6181-4608.

Further information about the institute and the research group of Prof. Dr. Cicin-Sain can be found on our website: <https://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/en/research/research-topics/immune-response/viral-immunology/our-research/>