The Institute of Experimental Haematology and Transfusion Medicine (IHT), University Clinic Bonn, Germany, in collaboration with School for Cardiovascular Diseases (CARIM) of Maastricht University (NL), invites applications for a

**Joint PhD position (Bonn and Maastricht) (m/f/d)**

The PhD position is funded by an Emmy Noether junior research group grant of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The group aims to investigate the role of vitamin K beyond the coagulation cascade by different approaches. The Institute of Experimental Haematology and Transfusion Medicine identified the key enzymes of the vitamin K cycle, the vitamin K reductases VKORC1 and VKORC1L1 in 2004, and has expertise in the development of cellular models to study the function and structure of both vitamin K reductases. The group in Maastricht has expertise in the field of vitamin K as well with special regard to vascular calcification and cardiovascular diseases. This collaboration provides a unique scientific environment combining expertise in vitamin K research and state-of-the-art techniques as CRISPR/Cas9 genetic engineering and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs).

The focus of the proposed PhD will be to identify the impact of vitamin K in vascular calcification and bone/cartilage metabolism by characterization of VSMCs and osteogenic cells that were differentiated from iPSCs from patients with vitamin K deficiency that are very rare. All methods regarding iPSCs will be first performed in Bonn. Further differentiation and characterization will take place in Maastricht.

We seek PhD candidates who are passionate about research and are highly motivated to solve scientific problems with modern approaches. The ideal candidate holds an academic degree in a life science-related discipline (Master’s degree) with a strong background in molecular biomedicine, molecular biology, biochemistry or cell biology. The position is initially limited to three years.

**We offer:**

- Joint PhD degree (Universities Bonn and Maastricht)
- The salary will be according to the German salary scale (TV-L E13, 50%)
- A Jobticket (subsidized public transport) is available
- Travel cost between Bonn and Maastricht will be paid by the grant
- Chance to attend international conferences (f.e. ISTH conference)

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunity. It is certified as a family-friendly university. It aims to increase the proportion of women in areas where women are under-represented and to promote their careers in particular. It therefore urges women with relevant qualifications to apply. Applications will be handled in accordance with the Landesgleichstellungsgesetz (State Equality Act). Applications from suitable individuals with a certified serious disability and those of equal status are particularly welcome.

For further information, please email Dr. Katrin Czogalla-Nitsche.
Please refer to the reference number 375_2019. Applicants should send their application including a cover letter, detailed CV and scanned academic degrees by email to:

Dr. Katrin Czogalla-Nitsche  
Institute of exp. Haematology & Transfusion Medicine  
Venusberg-Campus 1, Geb. 43  
53127 Bonn, Germany  
email: Katrin.Czogalla@ukbonn.de

and

Prof. Leon J Schurgers, Ph.D.  
Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht  
Department of Biochemistry, University Maastricht  
Visiting address: Universiteitssingel 50, 6229 ER Maastricht, The Netherlands  
Postal address: P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands  
email: l.schurgers@maastrichtuniversity.nl