The Laboratory for Liver Fibrosis and Portal Hypertension invites applications for a BONFOR-funded position as a

**PhD student (m/f/d), (65%, German TV-L E13)**

The position is limited to three years.

Clinically and in our basic research our laboratory is mainly focused on liver cirrhosis and its complications, especially the development of an acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF). During the last years we have addressed the topic of a second hit in patients with liver cirrhosis, e.g. abdominal surgery. It is a known fact, that surgery of any kind in patients with cirrhosis is associated with a poor clinical outcome. But the underlying mechanisms are yet to be investigated, strategies to improve the clinical outcome of these patients are yet to be found.

In our projects, in different models of portal hypertension (imitating cholestatic and toxic liver cirrhosis, NASH, and vascular liver diseases) a standardized abdominal operation is performed and portal pressure measurements in-vivo, molecular tissue analyses and in-vitro experiments are done. Especially, mechanisms of sterile inflammation (extracellular matrix) on liver-gut axis are a focus of interest. Promising preliminary data has already been obtained that has given us the opportunity to widen our research to pharmacological studies with statins and antibiotics in the above-mentioned model, supporting the translational aspect of these projects. Our group has large study cohorts and material of patients with vascular liver diseases and patients with liver cirrhosis, receiving a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS), and we are currently also building another cohort with patients with liver cirrhosis, who undergo surgery, giving us the benefit of being able to directly correlate to human data.

We are looking for a candidate that is highly motivated, enthusiastic, team-oriented, and has a strong interest in liver diseases. Candidates should hold a diploma or a master’s degree in a life science-related discipline, such as (veterinary) medicine, molecular biomedicine, physiology, immunology, biochemistry or biology. Interest in working with small animal models especially rats is essential. Experience in working with in vivo experimental models and other molecular methods such as PCR or immunohistochemistry are advantageous but not required. We are also open to beginners in the field of medical translational research. Proficiency in English, communication skills, as well as interdisciplinary thinking are essential. Experience in the use of computational tools and applied data analysis would be beneficial.

We are a highly motivated, ambitious team of MDs, technicians, and PhD-students. PhD students will be integrated into local graduate programs, they will have outstanding training opportunities and will benefit from our national and international cooperation. Our projects are often multidisciplinary, thus our laboratory is also well interconnected to other specialties such as surgery, cardiology and radiology, which will be the perfect opportunity for networking. Among others, we offer a salary according to the Germany salary scale, 65% TV-L E13 and subsidized public transport (Jobticket).

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.

Applicants should send their application as a single PDF file including cover letter, CV, and scanned academic degrees and, if applicable, list of publications and letters of recommendation, by E-Mail only to the contact data shown below until the 15th of October. More information on scientific projects will be provided during the recruitment process. Successful candidates can begin on November 1st, 2019 or later. Please refer to the reference number 518_2019.

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