PhD Program Cell Migration

“Cell Migration in Immunosurveillance, Inflammation, Tumorigenesis and Metastasis”

Cell migration is a fundamental process of life. Unicellular organisms such as amoeba have to migrate to reach food and to mate. In multicellular organisms, cell migration of individual cells or coordinated multicellular migration is required for gastrulation, morphogenesis and organogenesis (e.g. angiogenesis). Furthermore, the entire homeostasis of multicellular organisms relies on processes of cell migration including the process of immunosurveillance. Finally, cell migration is a crucial process during inflammation and tissue repair and is an integral mechanism of many pathological processes such as chronic inflammatory diseases and tumor metastasis. Immune and tumor cell migration are therefore two topics of utmost biomedical significance.

The PhD Program Cell Migration (https://cell-mig.ch) is organized by a growing group of highly innovative and successful Swiss research groups in the field of cell migration in morphogenesis, immunosurveillance, inflammation and cancer. The presently participating institutions with their principal investigators bring together complementary scientific expertise and methodological skillsets in the field of cell migration that permit for embedding a cutting-edge Swiss training program on Cell Migration for highly qualified and motivated PhD and MD-PhD students in the fields of biology, biochemistry, (molecular) human and veterinary medicine, immunology, pharmaceutical sciences, chemistry, physics, bioinformatics and mathematics with a focus on life sciences.

Lecturers:

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<th>University</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Bern</td>
<td>Medical Faculty</td>
<td>Theodor Kocher Institute</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Britta Engelhardt, Dr. Urban Deutsch, Prof. Dr. Ruth Lyck, Dr. Steven Proulx, Dr. Mykhailo Vladymyrov</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vetsuisse Faculty</td>
<td>Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Anna Oevermann</td>
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<td>Science Faculty</td>
<td>Institute for Cell Biology</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Olivier Pertz</td>
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<td>University of Fribourg</td>
<td>Faculty of Science and Medicine</td>
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<td>Prof. Curzio Ruegg, Prof. Jens Stein; Dr. Jun Abe; Dr. Melanie Bousquenau, Dr. Jimmy Stalin, MSc. Sarah Cattin, MSc. Gregory Bieler</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Geneva</td>
<td>Medical and Science Faculties</td>
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<td>Prof. Carole Bourquin, Prof. Christoph Schieermann</td>
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<td>Univeristá della Svizzera italiana</td>
<td>Facoltà die scienze biomediche</td>
<td>Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB)</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Marcus Thelen, Prof. Dr. Santiago F. Gonzalez, Prof. Dr. Mariagrazia Uguccioni</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biotechnology Institute Thurgau (BITg)</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Daniel Legler, Dr. Jéremy Rossy</td>
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PhD Cell Migration Program
The formal teaching courses consist of lectures, practical courses, journal clubs where credit points are assigned. Each doctoral student has to collect a minimum of 10 credit points; at least 3 of them must come from lecture courses, 2 from practical classes, 2 from the Webbased Journal and Literature Clubs or institutional Journal Clubs. The remaining 3 ECTS can be obtained by the attendance of the Module I in Animal Experimentation (LTKI), which we consider mandatory for the state-of-the art education of students performing experimental animal work in the context of cell migration, and/or any other suitable class as the selection of courses highly depends on the previous experience/training and the outline of the research project.

Teaching portfolio:

Lectures:
The lectures can be attended in person or via online platforms from the partner universities
- Dynamics of cellular contacts: Cell-cell contacts and cell motility, UNIBE (coordinated by B. Engelhardt) 3 ECTS
- Molecular Biology of Inflammation, UNIBE (coordinated by B. Engelhardt) 3 ECTS
- Hot topics in cancer research - Cancer metastasis, tumor microenvironment and inflammation, angiogenesis; UNIFR (coordinated by C. Rüegg) 3 ECTS
- Ask the expert – thematic modules Immunology; Replacement of Animal Experiments, UNIFR (coordinated by J. Stein, C.Rüegg) – 2 ECTS
- Seminar in Immunology and Cell Biology, BITg (coordinated by D.Legler), 1 ECTS
- Immunology from A to Z, UNIGE (coordinated by C. Bourquin and C. Scheiermann). Module 1: Basic Immunology, 2 ECTS, Module 2: Advanced Immunology, 2 ECTS
- Challenges in Clinical Oncology, UNIGE (coordinated by C. Bourquin), 2 ECTS
- Hot Topics in Immunology and Immunopharmacology, UNIGE (coordinated by C. Scheiermann and C. Bourquin), 1 ECTS
- Lecture/seminar series on selected topics of cell biology, IRB, 2 ECTS
- Lecture course IRB International PhD Program in Immunology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry" https://www.irb.usi.ch/phd-program, IRB, - 1 ECTS
- Cellular and molecular immunology, Unibe, 3 ECTS

Practical classes, courses
- GCB course Cell Migration, TKI at UNIBE with BITg, 5 days, 2 ECTS
- GCB course Vascular Biology, TKI at UNIBE, 5 days, 2 ECTS
- Transgenic animals in research, TKI at UNIBE, 1.5 days, 0.5 ECTS
- Model approaches to image analysis, IRB at UNIBE, 3 days 1 ECTS
- In vivo imaging (Luciferase, Fluorescence) UNIFR, 1 day, 0.5 ECTS
- “From animal to cell analysis” (cell isolation, flow cytometry) – UNIFR, 3 days, 1 ECTS
- Single Cell RNAsseq, UNIFR, 2 days, 1 ECTS
- Microscopy Applications for Immunological Research, IRB, 3 days, 1.5 ECTS
- Chemokines and Chemokine Receptors, IRB; 1.5 days, 0.5 ECTS
- Principles and Application of Flow Cytometry & Cell Sorting, UniKN, 2 ECTS
- Writing, presentation and communication; UNIFR, C. Rüegg, 0.5 ECTS
- Scientific writing, UniKN, 1.5 ECTS
- Speaking with confidence, UniKN, 2 ECTS
- Statistical Literacy, UniKN, 1 ECTS
- Gene expression and protein purification, UniKN, 1ECTS
- MATLAB, UniKN, 2 ECTS
- Bioimaging, UniKN, 3 days full time course
- Frontiers in Bioimaging, UniKN, 3 days full time course
- Proteomics, UniKN, 3 days full time course
- Scientific networking: how to promote your career while drinking coffee, UNIGE, 0.5 ECTS
- Ask the expert workshop, UNIGE, 0.5 ECTS
- Advanced Flow Cytometry workshop, UNIGE, 1 day, 0.5 ECTS
- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence methods applied to intravital microscopy of the immune system, IRB, 2 ECTS

**Tutorials, Literature and Journal Clubs**
The Cell Migration doctoral students will be brought up to date with the current literature in the field.
- Immunology Tutorial – coordinated by GCB UNIBE – 1 ECTS
- Journal Club in Cell Biology and Immunology, BITg, 1 ECTS
- Journal Club in Cell Biology and Immunology, UNIFR, 1 ECTS
- Journal Club – NeuTraVas Neuroinflammation, Cell Trafficking and Vascular Biology, TKI, 1 ECTS
- Immunology – Book Club, “Cellular and Molecular Immunology” by Abul K. Abbas, GCB, UNIBE, 3 ECTS
- Journal Club in Cancer Immunology, coordinated by UNIGE, 1 ECTS
- E-Literature Club: On a monthly basis the PIs will upload a seminal publication or review to an e-reading platform (e.g. Perusall; https://perusall.com) allowing for shared reading of this paper – 1 ECTS
- Faculty of Students: Following the “Faculty of 1000” scheme each PhD student will be assigned 1-3 relevant scientific journals and is asked on a weekly basis to recommend publications with a short comment to the internal webportal – coordinated by UNIBE, 1 ECTS
- Journal Club in Cell Biology and Immunology, weekly, IRB, 1 ECTS

**Additional parts of the program – ECTS depending on activity and time**

**Laboratory Rotations**
To support cross-disciplinary approaches, the program supports short-term laboratory rotations, in which interested PhD students have the opportunity to carry out up to two laboratory rotations in another laboratory of the participating PIs in the program.

**Annual Cell Migration Retreat (0.5 ECTS)**
An important highlight of the program will be the annual retreat where all students present their work in short talks and posters. Moreover, students will receive independent feedback on their individual research project from invited international experts in the field. These retreats have proven to foster cross-disciplinary networking amongst the students and research groups working on cell migration in Switzerland.

**Cytomeet (0.5 ECTS participation with presentation)**
The Cytomeet is a well-established one-day meeting for the Swiss scientific community interested in mechanisms of cell migration in vivo and in vitro. It takes place on a Tuesday in January of each year in Bern and is organized by Britta Engelhardt, Daniel Legler and PIs of the PhD Cell Migration program.

**Soft skills and interdisciplinary courses**
The program will advise students in participating in courses covering novel technologies, such as ‘omics’ approaches in life sciences and medicine, computational data analysis, including machine learning and Artificial Intelligence which are already offered across the disciplines of the participating institutions.

**For the supervision of a master student up to 2 ECTS can be gained**
- 0.5 ECTS for supervising a medical master student during 8 weeks
- 1 ECTS for supervising a biomedical master student during 6 months
- 2 ECTS for supervising a master student during 1 year
Regulations of the PhD Program Cell Migration

1. Who can apply?
   - PhD students accepted at any of the participating Universities and Institutes
   - PhD students enrolled in the GCB of the University of Bern
   - PhD students with a focus on cell migration in their PhD project
   - PhD students benefiting in their PhD thesis project from skills obtained in this program

2. How do PhD students get to know the PhD program Cell Migration?
   - recommendation through their supervisor
   - recommendation through the staff of the GCB of the University of Bern or comparable programs at the participating Universities
   - recommendation by their GCB mentor, co-supervisor and/or supervisor
   - information on the GCB homepage
   - information on the appropriate homepages of the partner Universities and Institutions

3. Process for getting enrolled
   - Students contact the Coordinator of the Program – Prof. Britta Engelhardt (bengel@tki.unibe.ch) and Yvonne Omara (yvonne.omara@tki.unibe.ch)
   - Students receive the information about the program and the mandatory courses as well as i) the registration form and ii) the form for their individual curriculum, which they have to complete continuously.
   - Students return the completed and signed registration form to Prof. Britta Engelhardt (bengel@tki.unibe.ch) and Yvonne Omara (yvonne.omara@tki.unibe.ch) accompanied by documentation of their enrollment in the GCB or acceptance as PhD student in any of the participating Universities
   - Enrollment in the PhD Program Cell Migration will be decided by the program coordinator, Prof. Britta Engelhardt.