The lab “Parasite Immunology” at the Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene (MIH) at Technical University Munich is offering a PhD student position.

The research in my lab mainly investigates how clinically important human parasites like schistosomes or tapeworms evade the host’s immune system and partly even hijack the adaptive immune system to ensure their own survival and reproduction. Our cell-based studies focus on the induction of regulatory networks such as peripherally induced Treg, alternatively activated macrophages as well as dendritic cells by parasitic molecules and their bystander effects on allergies and vaccines. We employ cutting edge immunological and molecular methodologies, mouse models of disease, in vitro transformation and larval cultivation models amongst many others. We have recently discovered that infection during pregnancy imprints on the capacity of the offspring’s immune system to raise antigen-specific responses e.g. in the context of vaccines. Moving forward, we want to understand this intriguing, possibly Lamarckian process and investigate the underlying mechanisms of how helminth-induced regulatory networks expand to the next generation.

You will be working in a fascinating field that is embedded in a striving and energetic environment, the newly founded Center for Global Health (CGH). It is my personal belief that what you do in your thesis will be a contribution to a neglected disease from which mainly people in low-and-middle income countries (LMIC) suffer. Being the co-founder of the CGH, I want to make sure that you never lose the bird’s eye perspective when you come out of the institute after a long day in the lab.

We are an international team and looking for a highly motivated student with a strong interest in immunology and molecular biology. The successful candidate should have completed a master’s degree (or equivalent), be creative and be committed to interdisciplinary research in a collaborative research environment.

The doctoral candidate will be employed by TUM (65 % TV-L E13) for a total duration of three years (with possible extension) and will be part of TUM graduate school “Experimental Medicine”. TUM is an equal opportunity employer. Therefore, women are especially encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to disabled candidates with essentially the same qualifications.

Please include a CV, brief summary of your previous work experience, a short statement of why you chose to apply for this position and contact information of referees.

Enquiries and applications should be made to clarissa.dacosta@tum.de.