

Postdoctoral Position in Tumor Immunology, 80-100%

Institution: University of Bern, Institute of Tissue Medicine and Pathology

Department: Experimental Pathology, Group Schenk (IP5)

Location: Murtenstrasse 31, 3008 Bern, Switzerland

Principal Investigator: Prof. Dr. Mirjam Schenk

Duration: 24 months, with potential extension to 48 months

Start Date: open now, latest start January 2025

Application Deadline: 31.08.2024

Contact Information:

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Position Overview:

The Institute of Tissue Medicine and Pathology at the University of Bern is seeking a highly motivated and self-disciplined postdoctoral researcher to join the team of Prof. M. Schenk. The successful candidate will work on a cutting-edge project focused on the comprehensive analysis of the tumor microenvironment in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). This research aims to discover novel biomarkers and identify therapeutic targets to improve the diagnosis and treatment of PDAC.

Project Summary:

PDAC is an aggressive cancer with a poor prognosis and limited treatment options. This project aims to unravel the complexities of the tumor immune microenvironment using advanced imaging mass cytometry (IMC) and transcriptomic techniques (scRNA-seq and spatial transcriptomics). The integration of these data with clinical parameters will facilitate the identification of key immune markers and therapeutic targets.

Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct high-dimensional immunophenotyping of PDAC tissues using IMC.
- Perform transcriptomic analyses including scRNA-seq and spatial transcriptomics.
- Analyze the relationships between the immune microenvironment, tumor mutational burden, and clinical outcomes.
- Design and perform in vivo experiments using murine models to assess the efficacy and mechanisms of novel treatments.
- Supervise and mentor graduate and undergraduate students in the lab.
- Assist in writing grant proposals and securing research funding.
- Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians, and bioinformaticians.
- Prepare and present research findings at scientific conferences and in peer-reviewed journals.

Qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant field (e.g., Cancer Biology, Immunology).
- Strong background in tumor immunology and/or cancer research.
- Experience with high-dimensional data analysis, including transcriptomics and/or imaging mass cytometry.
- Proficiency in bioinformatics and statistical analysis tools (e.g., R, Python).
- Highly motivated and self-disciplined with excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with immunology and cancer research.
- Knowledge of immunotherapy and its application in cancer treatment.
- Familiarity with clinical data integration and high-dimensional data analysis.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary and benefits package.
- Access to state-of-the-art research facilities and resources.
- Opportunity to work in a dynamic and collaborative research environment.
- Professional development opportunities and support for career advancement.

Application Instructions:

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A cover letter detailing research interests and relevant experience.
- Curriculum vitae (CV) including a list of publications.
- Contact information for three professional references.
- A brief statement of research goals (1-2 pages).

Please send the application materials as a single PDF file to Prof. Dr. Mirjam Schenk at mirjam.schenk@unibe.ch by August 31, 2024.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

The University of Bern is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in its workforce. We welcome applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of race, gender, disability, or other characteristics.

We look forward to receiving your application and exploring the potential for you to join our innovative research team at the University of Bern, Institute of Tissue Medicine and Pathology.