



iSTAR

integrative Advanced Clinician Scientists Targeting
Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases

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1. Kick-off meeting for Advanced Clinician Scientists

In the beginning of May, members of the iSTAR program took part in a Peer Meeting, which took place in Würzburg. They met with other members of nationwide BMBF-sponsored clinician scientist programs. It was a great opportunity for our scientists to network, exchange knowledge and take part in team building activities.



From left to right: Dr. Sonja Hiekmann (iSTAR co-ordinator), Dr. Fabian Braun (Department of Nephrology, Kidney Transplant, Rheumatology and Endocrinology), Dr. Tilo Freiwald (Department of Nephrology, Kidney Transplant, Rheumatology and Endocrinology), Dr. Johannes Hartl (Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infection) and Dr. Sina Rosenkranz (Institute of Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis & Department of Neurology)

2. News from the Rosenkranz Lab

Jasmina Bier, who is a PhD student in the Rosenkranz lab studying the neuroprotective effects of exercise in Multiple Sclerosis, won a **silver medal** at the European Championships of Pararowing.



3. Significant publications by iSTARs

Johann von Felden:

Kocheise L, Schoenlein M, Behrends B, Joerg V, Casar C, Fruendt TW, Renné T, Heumann A, Li J, Huber S, Lohse AW, Pantel K, Riethdorf S, Wege H, Schulze K, **von Felden J**. *EpCAM-positive circulating tumor cells and serum AFP levels predict outcome after curative resection of hepatocellular carcinoma*. Sci Rep. 2023 Nov 27;13(1):20827. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-47580-0. PMID: 38012205; PMCID: PMC10682153.

Tilo Freiwald:

Desai JV, Kumar D, **Freiwald T**, Chauss D, Johnson MD, Abers MS, Steinbrink JM, Perfect JR, Alexander B, Matzaraki V, Snarr BD, Zarakas MA, Oikonomou V, Silva LM, Shivarathri R, Beltran E, Demontel LN, Wang L, Lim JK, Launder D, Conti HR, Swamydas M, McClain MT, Moutsopoulos NM, Kazemian M, Netea MG, Kumar V, Köhl J, Kemper C, Afzali B, Lionakis MS. *C5a-licensed phagocytes drive sterilizing immunity during systemic fungal infection*. Cell. 2023 Jun 22;186(13):2802-2822.e22. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2023.04.031. Epub 2023 May 22. PMID: 37220746; PMCID: PMC10330337.

Johannes Hartl:

Weltz JP, Bartel CF, Waldmann M, Renne T, Schulze S, Terziroli Beretta-Piccoli B, Papp M, Oo Ye, Ronca V, Sebode M, Lohse AW, Schramm C, **Hartl J**. **Optimizing thiopurine therapy in autoimmune hepatitis: A multi-center study on monitoring metabolite profiles and co-therapy with allopurinol**. (accepted: Hepatology)

4. Welcome to the program new iSTARs!

- ★ Dr. Jenny Krause
- ★ Dr. Anastasios Giannou
- ★ Dr. Christian Schmidt-Lauber

5. Save the date: Advanced Clinician Scientist Retreat

The next Advanced Clinician Scientist Retreat will take place on the **5th December** in Hamburg. This year, all members of the iSTAR, iDfellows, and iPRIME CS programs will take part in a joint retreat. On the agenda will be flash talks, coaching sessions, and opportunities to interact with mentors.

SAVE THE DATE

5. Dezember 2024

(ADVANCED) CLINICIAN SCIENTIST RETREAT iSTAR, iDfellows and iPRIME-CS

MODERATION

Prof. Marylyn M. Addo
Prof. Samuel M. Huber
Prof. Tobias B. Huber
Prof. Ansgar W. Lohse

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GEFÖRDERT VON



(ADVANCED) CLINICIAN SCIENTIST RETREAT Elsa Brändström Hause



iDfellows

iPRIME-CS
Clinician scientist