

Job Advertisement No. 08/2018

The **Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology – Hans Knöll Institute –** (HKI, www.leibniz-hki.de) investigates the pathobiology of human-pathogenic fungi and identifies targets for the development of novel natural product-based antibiotics. The **Department of Microbial Pathogenicity Mechanisms** invites applications for a

Doctoral Researcher (m/f) Pathogenicity Mechanisms

in the field of Microbiology / Infection Biology / Cellular Microbiology. The project will be financed by internal resources, but will be integrated into the existing networks of our department.

Project background: Fungi infect billions of people annually, kill as many people as tuberculosis or malaria and are a major problem in the clinical setting. *Candida albicans* and *C. glabrata* are major fungal pathogens and frequently cause superficial or even fatal infections. However, most humans are asymptotically colonised by these fungi as a part of their commensal microbiota. We are a [leading research group](#) in the investigation of *Candida albicans* and *C. glabrata* pathogenicity mechanisms including their interaction with immune cells, their nutrient acquisition strategies during infection, their evolution and adaptation in pathogenicity, the mechanisms involved in the commensal-to-pathogen shift and their capacity to cause host cell damage.

In this project, fungal infection strategies will be investigated using cell culture-based infection models, targeted genetic manipulations of the fungus, and current molecular assaying techniques. Details will be discussed with the selected candidate to best suit his/her interest and current developments in research.

We expect:

- a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Natural Sciences (e.g. Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology). Candidates about to earn their degree are welcome to apply.
- desirable methodological skills: Practical experiences in one or more of the following subjects: Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Infection Biology, Cellular Biology. Practical experience in cell culture or fungal genetics is an advantage.
- high motivation, creativity and interest to shape your own thesis project
- an integrative and cooperative personality
- very good communication skills in English (laboratory language at our department).

We offer:

- a highly communicative atmosphere and a scientific network providing top-level research facilities
- a doctoral researcher position (TV-L E13, 50%) for at least three years
- integration into one of our graduate schools: ILRS (www.ilrs.de) or JSMC (www.jsmc.uni-jena.de), including a comprehensive mentoring program with supervision by a team of advisors and a top-level PhD training program with courses in state-of-the-art research technologies and soft skills
- Jena – City of Science: a young and lively town with dynamic business activities, successful scientific centers of innovation and a vibrant cultural scene around the famous Friedrich Schiller University

Salary is paid according to German TV-L (salary agreement for public service employees). As an equal opportunity employer the HKI is committed to increase the percentage of female scientists and therefore especially encourages them to apply.

Further information: Prof. Dr. Bernhard Hube | +49 3641 532 1401 | career@leibniz-hki.de

Complete applications in English should include a CV, a complete list of publications, a brief statement of research experiences, the addresses of two possible referees, and should be submitted by **July 15, 2018** via the [online application system](#) of the HKI.

