

MSc thesis project in the LeibundGut-lab



“Skin commensal fungi at the interface between health and disease”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Our lab studies the interaction between fungal commensal organisms and the mammalian host. We are particularly interested in the immune mechanisms that prevent fungal overgrowth and disease in barrier tissues. Besides colonizing the mammalian skin as a commensal, the yeast *Malassezia* is also associated with various inflammatory and chronic skin disorders, such as atopic dermatitis. However, what determines the balance between health and disease remains largely unclear.

This project will explore the interaction between *Malassezia* and the skin immune system to better understand what shapes the outcome of the interaction, i.e. health or disease. More specifically, the MSc student will use dendritic cells and epithelial cells in culture to probe the involvement of specific PRR pathways in the host response to various species and strains of *Malassezia*. The project is well embedded in a larger project of the lab and will be supervised by a PhD student.

WHAT WE OFFER:

A 3- to 12-month project (ETH semester project, ETH MSc thesis, UZH MSc thesis) with a flexible starting date.

Our team currently comprises 3 postdocs, 3 PhD students, 1 Technician and 1 MSc student. Our lab is located at the Irchel Campus (Vetsuisse Faculty) of University of Zürich. We are associated with the Institute of Experimental Immunology of University of Zürich.

For further details please visit: <http://www.vetvir.uzh.ch/en/Research/Immunology>

WHAT WE EXPECT:

We are looking for a highly motivated, talented and hard-working student with a solid background immunology and microbiology. Experience with cell culture and flow cytometry are an asset.

Are you eager to learn new concepts and new experimental techniques in the fields of host-microbe interactions and cellular immunology and to design and perform your own experiments in preparation of your doctoral studies? Then you may apply for this position by sending your CV (including a list of all block courses and any other practical courses/internships that you have completed), a letter of motivation and the name of a reference to:

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