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New Junior Research Group "Cell Biology of RNA Viruses" at the Heinrich Pette Institute

Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres and her Junior Research Group will complement the research spectrum of the HPI from June 2020

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Hamburg. The Junior Research Group "Cell Biology of RNA Viruses" headed by Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres will start its work at HPI on June 1, 2020. The group is part of the Leibniz ScienceCampus *InterACT*.

In the independent HPI Junior Research Groups, young scientists are given the opportunity to address current issues in virology. As of June 1, 2020, Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres will start her group "Cell Biology of RNA Viruses" at the HPI, thus further expanding the spectrum of viruses studied at the institute. The group is an integral part of *InterACT* (Integrative Analysis of pathogen-induced compartments), a Leibniz ScienceCampus established in Hamburg in 2019 with the overall goal of better understanding the role of compartments in the course of infection.

With her research, Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres aims to better understand the interactions between RNA viruses and their host cell. As part of *InterACT*, the group is particularly interested in the function of cell compartments used by viruses for their replication cycle.

At the HPI, her research team will particularly focus on hepatitis C virus (HCV): "HCV reorganizes the endoplasmic reticulum, but also maintains complex interactions with the lipid metabolism of the host, especially with the lipid droplets that are hijacked as part of the viral replication niche. We are investigating the molecular machinery of the virus and its host cell that is used to take over these organelles," Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres explains her research approach and is looking forward to her time in Hamburg: "The scientific environment and infrastructure of the HPI and the *InterACT* ScienceCampus are ideal to successfully advance my research."

"We're very pleased to have Gabrielle Vieyres on board for HPI. This is the first major appointment from the *InterACT* science campus and a further milestone in the expansion of the network and the strengthening of infection research," says Prof. Thomas Dobner, Scientific Director of the HPI.

Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres

Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres was born in France in 1983. After a Bachelor and Master in "Molecular and Cell Biology, Oncology" at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, she obtained her PhD at the Center for Infection & Immunity in Lille (France, Dr. J. Dubuisson) and at the MRC Virology in Glasgow (UK, Dr. A.H. Patel) from 2006-2010. Since 2011 she was a postdoctoral fellow at Twincore in Hannover (Pr. Th. Pietschmann).

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Heinrich Pette Institute, Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology

The Heinrich Pette Institute, Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology (HPI) investigates the biology of human pathogenic viruses with the aim of unraveling the molecular mechanisms that control viral life cycles and virus induced pathogenesis. The institute applies basic experimental research to develop new approaches for contemporary treatments of viral infections such as AIDS, influenza and hepatitis but also of emerging viral diseases.

The HPI was established by the philanthropist Philipp F. Reemtsma and the neurologist Heinrich Pette in 1948. The institute is a non-profit, independent research foundation that is part of the Leibniz Association.

Further information: www.hpi-hamburg.de

Leibniz ScienceCampus *InterACT*

Leibniz ScienceCampi enable Leibniz institutions and universities to cooperate on a thematically focused basis in the sense of an equal, complementary, regional partnership. The aim is to create networks in order to further develop the respective research area and strengthen the scientific environment for this topic.

Hamburg's Leibniz ScienceCampus "Integrative Analysis of pathogen-induced compartments", *InterACT*, has set itself the goal of better understanding the role of compartments in the course of infection.

In the course of the cellular infection cycle, pathogens such as viruses, bacteria and parasites use existing reaction spaces of the host or create new compartments. These reaction compartments protect the pathogens from host defense and concentrate factors that contribute to reproduction. The complexity of the dynamics, structure and function of these diverse reaction spaces can only be fully analyzed *in situ*. *InterACT* uses state-of-the-art imaging analysis techniques for this purpose. The resulting complex data sets are also integratively combined with data from complementary methods. In the long term, the knowledge gained in this way makes it possible to find new approaches for innovative therapeutic approaches. *InterACT* combines Hamburg's expertise in infection, structural and systems biology with *in situ* imaging and bioinformatics methods.

Further information: www.leibniz-interact.de