

May 2, 2022

LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL VIROLOGY (HPI)

## **New HPI Junior Research Group "Genomics of Retroviral Infections"**

*Dr. Ulrike Lange complements the research spectrum of the HPI with her junior research group starting in May 2022*

**Hamburg. The junior research group "Genomics of Retroviral Infections" headed by PD Dr. Dr. Ulrike Lange will start its work at the HPI on May 1, 2022.**

In the independent HPI junior research groups, young scientists are given the opportunity to address current issues in virology. As of May 1, 2022, Ulrike Lange will start her group "Genomics of Retroviral Infections" at the HPI and thus further expand the research spectrum worked on at the institute.

The new junior research group is investigating the extent to which retroviruses, such as HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can influence the function of the genome in human cells. To this end, Ulrike Lange and her team are investigating the molecular mechanisms that determine the activity of viruses integrated into the genome. A particular focus is also on the analysis of general changes in genome biology. The aim is to discover new biomarkers for chronic viral infections and to strengthen the understanding of how our genome can act as a functional unit.

At the HPI, her research team will focus particularly on HIV: *"Our overarching goal is to understand the way in which the integration of proviral DNA alters the activity of the target genome and thereby influences physiological processes of the host cell which may lead to pathologies,"* says Ulrike Lange, explaining her research approach and looking forward to her time as a junior research group leader: *"The scientific environment and infrastructure at the HPI are ideal for successfully advancing my research."*

*"We are very happy that Ulrike Lange is establishing her junior research group at the HPI. With her research, she ideally complements the spectrum of the institute,"* says Prof. Thomas Dobner, Scientific Director of HPI.

The junior research group is funded as a "non-clinical junior research group" in infection research via the 2nd round of the funding measure in infection research of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). In addition to Ulrike Lange, Dr. Angelique Hölzemer from the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) and HPI-associated head of the working group "Infection & Immunoregulation" within the HPI department "Virus Immunology", has also received a funding for a Clinical Junior Research Group in Infection Research in the same funding measure.

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### PD Dr. Dr. Ulrike C. Lange

Ulrike Lange was born in 1980. After her medical studies, which she completed in 2010 at the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, she completed her postgraduate training in the field of anesthesiology/intensive care medicine at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, where she has been working as a specialist in anesthesiology since 2018.

Her scientific training was obtained through a Bachelor of Science degree at University College London in 2001, followed by a Master of Philosophy degree at the University of Cambridge in 2003 within a Wellcome Trust 4-Year PhD Programme in Developmental Biology, followed by a PhD dissertation. After her medical PhD at the Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg and the Max-Planck-Institute for Immunobiology and Epigenetics in 2012, she was a Clinical Leave fellow of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) from 2015 to 2016 in the former HPI Department "Antiviral Strategies" under the supervision of Prof. Joachim Hauber. At the UKE, with HPI association, she has since been a Clinician Scientist.

In addition to officially starting her HPI junior research group, Ulrike Lange will also be co-associated with the Institute for Infection Research and Vaccine Development at the UKE from May 1, 2022.

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Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology (HPI),  
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#### LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL VIROLOGY (HPI)

The Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology (HPI) conducts research into human pathogenic viruses with the aim of understanding virus-related diseases and developing new therapeutic approaches.

On the basis of basic experimental research, new starting points for improved procedures for the treatment of viral diseases such as AIDS, influenza and hepatitis, but also of emerging viral infections, are to be developed. With its main research areas, HPI covers the world's most important viral infectious agents.

Founded in 1948, the institute's origins go back to the patron Philipp F. Reemtsma and the neurologist Heinrich Pette. As a foundation under civil law, HPI is a non-profit and independent research institution that has been a member of the Leibniz Association (WGL) since 1995. The institute is funded proportionally by the German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) and the joint research funding of the federal states, represented by the Ministry of Science, Research, Equality and Districts (BWFGB) of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. In addition, a large proportion is obtained through competitive procedures.

HPI is member of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF).

More information: [www.hpi-hamburg.de](http://www.hpi-hamburg.de)

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