

Research group “Innate Immunity“ (Prof. Dr. Philipp Henneke)

Philipp Henneke Group Leader and Senior Physician

1987 - 94 Study of Medicine, FU Berlin, Imperial College, London

1994-99 Fellowship in General Pediatrics, FU Berlin

1995 MD Thesis, FU Berlin

1999-2001 Post Doc, Boston University

2001-2002 Lecturer, Harvard Medical School, Boston

2001-2002 Instructor, University of Massachusetts Medical School

2002 Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts

2002-2003 Fellow, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Freiburg University

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Innate immunity, in contrast to individually developed adaptive immunity is chromosomally encoded and thus passed on from one generation to the next. It is thus available right from the moment of birth as a first line of defence against all pathogens. Consequently the innate immunity is very important, in particular for newborns and during fulminant invasive infections such as sepsis and meningitis. The innate immunity group of the Centre of Chronic Immunodeficiency Freiburg investigates the molecular mechanisms responsible for the innate immune response to different microorganisms. Our research is mainly carried out on group B Streptococcus, the most important cause of sepsis and meningitis in newborns and Streptococcus pneumoniae which are the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia and bacterial meningitis. We focus on deciphering the interaction between the host cell surface receptors and structures on the invading microorganism, as this determines the direction of the immune response (inflammation, killing of the bacteria) and consequently the course of the disease.

Contact

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