

## **Thimme, Robert, Prof. Dr. (21.05.1970, male)**

Department of Medicine II  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Endocrinology  
and Infectious Diseases  
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Head of the Department of Medicine II, Medical Center - University of Freiburg  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Endocrinology and Infectious Diseases

### **University training and degree**

1989 - 1996 Medical studies in Berlin and Freiburg

### **Advanced academic qualifications**

2006 Habilitation in Internal Medicine, University of Freiburg (Mentor: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. H. E. Blum – University of Freiburg)

1994 Dissertation in Medicine, University of Freiburg (Supervisor: Prof. Dr. O. Haller, University of Freiburg)

### **Postgraduate professional career**

01/2018 Speaker of the Center for Medicine  
10/2013 - Clinical Director, Department of Internal Medicine II  
2012 - 2013 Assistant Medical Director, Department of Internal Medicine II  
2009 - 2013 Head of the newly founded Gerok-Liver Centre of Freiburg  
2009 - 2013 Heisenberg Professorship W2 / W3 in Hepatology  
2007 - 2013 Leading attending at Department of Internal Medicine II  
2005 - 2009 Junior Professorship for Hepatitis Viral Infection  
2001 - 2005 Special training in Gastroenterology at Department of Internal Medicine II  
1998 - 2001 Research Fellow in the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA (Prof. Dr. F. V. Chisari)  
1996 - 1998 Medical Doctor at Department of Internal Medicine II, University of Freiburg

### **Coordinating functions and functions in scientific societies and committees**

2025 – present Full member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the German Medical Association for the field of internal medicine / transplantation medicine  
2025 – present Deputy Chairman of the Falk Foundation e. V.  
2025 - 2026 President of the German Association for the Study of the Liver (GASL)  
2023 - present President of the Association of University Gastroenterologists (AUG e. V.)  
2022 - present Vice Dean and Dean for Strategy, Faculty of Medicine, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg  
2022 - present Member of the Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)  
2021 - present Member of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Selection Committee for the Award of Humboldt Research Fellowships  
2021 - present Speaker of the BMBF Advanced Clinician Scientist Program "IMMediate – Immune-Mediated Diseases"  
2020 - present Project Leader H2020 IP-cure B – Host-directed interventions to cure hepatitis B infections (EU-Project)  
2019 - present Member of the Permanent Senate Commission for Fundamental Issues in Clinical Research of the DFG  
2019 - present Member of the Research Strategy Board, Rectorate, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg  
2019 - 2022 Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg

2018 - present	Coordinator Clinician Scientist Program IMM-PACT (funded by the DFG)
2017 - present	Co-Speaker of newly established Clinician Scientist Program EXCEL (funded by the Else-Kröner-Fresenius Foundation)
2016 - present	Co-Program Spokesman Berta-Ottenstein-Program for Clinician Scientists
2016 - present	Co-Speaker SFB/TRR 179 "Determinants and dynamics of elimination versus persistence of hepatitis virus infection"
2016 - present	Scientific Member and Section Leader "Immunology" (International Coalition to eliminate HBV/ ICE-HBV)
2015 - 2020	Coordinator HEP-CAR Consortium (Horizon 2020 Project)
2015 - present	Co-Speaker SFB 1160 "IMPATH"
2013 - 2018	Coordinator Else-Kröner-Fresenius MD-Kolleg (MOTI-VATE)
2011 - 2020	DFG-Fachkollegium "Medicine"
2009 - 2015	Spokesman EU Interreg IV, "Hepato-Regio-Net" (Freiburg, Basel, Strasbourg)
2009 - present	DAAD Evaluation Committee Post Doc
2009 - 2015	Co-Speaker DFG research unit FOR1202 "Mechanisms of persistence of hepatotropic viruses"
2009 - 2012	Scientific Secretary of the GASL (German Association for the Study of Liver diseases)

### Scholarships / Awards / Honors

2025	Teacher of the Year 2025 award winner
2020	Election Member of the Leopoldina - German National Academy of Sciences
2019	Election Member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI)
2008	DFG Heisenberg-Professorship
2007	Dr. Norbert-Henning Prize for Gastroenterology, University of Erlangen
2007	Kußmaul Prize "Südwestdeutsche Gesellschaft Gastroenterologie"
2007	Thieme Prize for Medicine, Leopoldina Academy for natural scientists, Germany
2003	Heine Medin Award of the European Society of Clinical Virology
2002	Research Award of the American Liver Foundation, San Diego, USA
2002	Emmy-Noether-Program DFG
2000	Postdoctoral Fellowship Award Cancer Research Institute, NY, USA
1994	Ludwig Heilmeyer Price of the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg for the best experimental Dissertation

### 10 most important publications

1. Heim K, Sagar, Sogukpinar Ö, Llewellyn-Lacey S, Price DA, Emmerich F, Kraft ARM, Cornberg M, Kielbassa S, Knolle P, Wohlleber D, Bengsch B, Boettler T, Neumann-Haefelin C, **Thimme R**, Hofmann M. Attenuated effector T cells are linked to control of chronic HBV infection. *Nat Immunol.* 2024 Sep;25(9):1650-1662. doi: 10.1038/s41590-024-01928-4.
2. Lang-Meli J, Luxenburger H, Wild K, Karl V, Oberhardt V, Salimi Alizei E, Graeser A, Reinscheid M, Roehlen N, Reeg DB, Giese S, Ciminski K, Götz V, August D, Rieg S, Waller CF, Wengenmayer T, Staudacher D, Huzly D, Bengsch B, Kochs G, Schwemmler M, Emmerich F, Boettler T, **Thimme R**, Hofmann M, Neumann-Haefelin C. SARS-CoV-2-specific T-cell epitope repertoire in convalescent and mRNA-vaccinated individuals. *Nat Microbiol.* 2022 May;7(5):675-679. doi: 10.1038/s41564-022-01106-y.
3. Oberhardt V\*, Luxenburger H\*, Kemming J\*, Schulien I\*, Ciminski K, Giese S, Csernalabics B, Lang-Meli J, Janowska I, Staniek J, Wild K, Basho K, Marinescu MS, Fuchs J, Topfstedt F, Janda A, Sogukpinar O, Hilger H, Stete K, Emmerich F, Bengsch B, Waller CF, Rieg S, Sagar, Boettler T, Zoldan K, Kochs G, Schwemmler M, Rizzi M, **Thimme R\***, Neumann-Haefelin C\*, Hofmann M\*. Rapid and stable mobilization of fully functional spike-specific CD8+ T cells preceding a mature humoral response after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination. *Nature.* 2021. 597(7875):268-273. doi: 10.1038/s41586-021-03841-4.
4. Schulien I, Kemming J, Oberhardt V, Wild K, Seidel LM, Killmer S, Sagar, Daul F, Salvat Lago M, Decker A, Luxenburger H, Binder B, Bettinger D, Sogukpinar O, Rieg S, Panning M, Huzly D, Schwemmler M, Kochs G, Waller CF, Nieters A, Duerschmied D, Emmerich F, Mei HE, Schulz AR, Llewellyn-Lacey S, Price DA, Boettler T, Bengsch B, **Thimme R\***, Hofmann M\*, Neumann-Haefelin C\*. Characterization of pre-existing and induced SARS-CoV-2-specific CD8+ T cells. *Nat Med.* 2021 Jan;27(1):78-85. doi: 10.1038/s41591-020-01143-2.

5. Hensel N, Gu Z, Sagar, Wieland D, Jechow K, Kemming J, Llewellyn-Lacey S, Gostick E, Sogukpinar O, Emmerich F, Price DA, Bengsch B, Boettler T, Neumann-Haefelin C, Eils R, Conrad C, Bartenschlager R, Grün D, Ishaque N, **Thimme R\***, Hofmann M\*. Memory-like HCV-specific CD8+ T cells retain a molecular scar after cure of chronic HCV infection. *Nat Immunol*. 2021 Feb;22(2):229-239. doi: 10.1038/s41590-020-00817-w.
6. Heim K, Binder B, Sagar, Wieland D, Hensel N, Llewellyn-Lacey S, Gostick E, Price DA, Emmerich F, Vingerhoet H, Kraft ARM, Cornberg M, Boettler T, Neumann-Haefelin C, Zehn D, Bengsch B, Hofmann M, **Thimme R**. TOX defines the degree of CD8+ T cell dysfunction in distinct phases of chronic HBV infection. *Gut*. 2020 Oct 23;70(8):1550-1560. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2020-322404.
7. Alfei F, Kanev K, Hofmann M, Wu M, Ghoneim HE, Roelli P, Utzschneider DT, von Hösslin M, Cullen JG, Fan Y, Eisenberg V, Wohlleber D, Steiger K, Merkler D, Delorenzi M, Knolle PA, Cohen CJ, **Thimme R\***, Youngblood B\*, Zehn D\*. TOX reinforces the phenotype and longevity of exhausted T cells in chronic viral infection. *Nature*. 2019 Jul;571(7764):265-269. doi: 10.1038/s41586-019-1326-9.
8. Schuch A, Salimi Alizei E\*, Heim K\*, Wieland D, Muthamia Kiraithe M, Kemming J, Llewellyn-Lacey S, Sogukpinar Ö, Ni Y, Urban S, Zimmermann P, Nassal M, Emmerich F, Price DA, Bengsch B, Luxenburger H, Neumann-Haefelin C, Hofmann M\*, **Thimme R\***. Phenotypic and functional differences of HBVcore- versus HBVpolymerase-specific CD8+ T cells in chronically HBV-infected patients with low viral load. *Gut*. 2019. 68(5):905-915. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2018-316641.
9. Dazert E, Neumann-Haefelin C, Bressanelli S, Fitzmaurice K, Kort J, Timm J, McKiernan S, Kelleher D, Gruener N, Tavis JE, Rosen HR, Shaw J, Bowness P, Blum HE, Klenerman P, Bartenschlager R, **Thimme R**. Loss of viral fitness and cross-recognition by CD8+ T cells limit HCV escape from a protective HLA-B27-restricted human immune response. *J Clin Invest* 2009, 119:376-86. doi: 10.1172/JCI36587.
10. **Thimme R**, Bukh J, Spangenberg HC, Wieland S, Steiger C, Pemberton J, Purcell R, Chisari FV. Virological and immunological determinants of HCV clearance, persistence and disease. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2002, 99:15661-68. doi: 10.1073/pnas.202608299.