

PhD position

available at the Institute of Virology,
Saarland University Medical Center, Homburg/Saar, Germany

Project: Stem Cells, Organoid Models and Virus-Induced Cancer

We are seeking a highly motivated researcher with a strong interest in organoid/stem cell research, molecular virology, and cancer biology to join our team.

Project Overview

This project investigates human papillomavirus (HPV)-induced carcinogenesis using cutting-edge organoid-based stem cell models. Our laboratory has developed unique 3D organotypic and organoid tissue culture systems, complemented by advanced molecular biology techniques including single-cell sequencing, pan-omics approaches, and chromatin analyses. These innovative tools enable us to uncover fundamental mechanisms of papillomavirus-driven transformation with the long-term goal of developing novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

Research Environment

We offer an outstanding international scientific environment with state-of-the-art facilities. Our group is affiliated with the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS) and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI). Through access to clinically relevant patient samples and close collaborations with the Leibniz Institute for New Materials (INM), we bridge basic research and translational applications.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate will have

- Strong background in cell biology, tumor virology, and/or cancer research
- Master's degree, diploma, or equivalent in biology, biochemistry, pharmacy, or related discipline
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English
- Genuine enthusiasm for molecular and translational research

Application Details

Application deadline: February 15, 2026

Please submit your complete application as a single PDF including

- Motivation letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Statement of research experience
- Contact information for two references

Please send applications via email to sigrun.smola@uks.eu.

Contact

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