PhD Program between the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

Open PhD Position at Freie Universität Berlin, offered only to Chinese CSC scholarship candidates 2020

Please Note: this PhD position is only offered to Chinese PhD candidates for the application in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program.

Department/Institute: Veterinary Medicine / Institute of Immunology
Subject area: Infection Immunology
Name of Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Susanne Hartmann
Number of open PhD positions: 1
Type of the PhD Study: Full Time
Project title: Role of the gut-liver axis in early immune responses to the intestinal roundworm Ascaris

PhD Project description:
The soil-transmitted roundworm Ascaris affects more than 800 million people worldwide and leads especially in children to impaired physical condition and cognitive development. In parallel, Ascaris infections are very common in pig breeding facilities responsible for reduced growth performance and significant economic losses. Infections with Ascaris comprise an extensive tissue migratory phase of the helminths from the intestine via the liver, the lung and the pharynx back to the intestine.

In this context the proposed project aims at deciphering immune mechanisms of the gut-liver axis. Early innate immune mechanisms in the gut and liver ideally lead to killing of migrating larval stages of primary and secondary infections. However, the parasite counteracts early innate host immune responses and exploits tolerogenic mechanisms of gut and liver leading to establishment of infection and reinfections (1). Here, innate immune mechanisms in particular innate lymphoid cells are involved in acute and chronic inflammatory settings of gut and liver and will be in focus of the proposed project. As anthelmintic drugs are losing efficacy due to rising drug resistance there is an urgent need to unravel early immune mechanisms in order to develop new drug and vaccine strategies.


Language requirements:
IELTS: 6,5 oder TOEFL: 95 ibt
**Academic requirements:**

| Academic requirement: Master of Science, preferable in Veterinary Medicine. |
| Experiences in: Immunology and Parasitology. |

**Information of the professor or research group leader (website, awards etc.):**

| Webpage of the Institute of Immunology: |

**Please Note:** In a first step, the complete application should be submitted to [csc@international.fu-berlin.de](mailto:csc@international.fu-berlin.de) for evaluation by January 4th, 2020. Please do not contact the professor before. He/she will get in contact with you after having received the complete application via the International Office of Freie Universität Berlin in January.