

## PhD position studying fetal programming and early preadipocyte development within the DFG-funded graduate school GRK2576 - Vivid

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student studying the link between maternal obesity and the early steps in the commitment of pre-adipocytes using an *in vivo* mouse model and primary adipocyte cell cultures. The work will be done at the Department of General Pediatrics, Neonatology and Pediatric Cardiology at the University Children's Hospital of the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany with Prof. Regina Ensenaer and coworkers in collaboration with researchers at the German Diabetes Center, Leibniz Center for Diabetes Research at HHU (DDZ). We are an international team with a highly motivating working environment.

### Description of the project:

Maternal obesity continues to increase dramatically in developed countries. Preclinical and clinical data have demonstrated that the offspring born to peri-conceptionally overweight or obese mothers have an increased risk for metabolic disease such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, which also holds true in animal models. However, the molecular mechanisms linking prenatal obesogenic exposure to the later development of diabetes and obesity in offspring remain poorly defined.

In this project, we will use an *in vivo* mouse model and primary adipocyte cell cultures to perform whole transcriptome analysis and to identify candidate regulatory factors (epigenetics) that will be assessed in murine and human primary preadipocytes using different methods (e.g. RNAi). For further details, please see project 1b at <https://www.vivid.hhu.de/projects.html>

The successful candidate must have:

- a master degree (or equivalent) in biology, biochemistry, biophysics, chemistry, or other closely related fields of natural sciences
- experience in laboratory work using a broad spectrum of methods in molecular biology, biochemistry, and cell biology
- very good proficiency in writing and speaking English
- strong interest to work in an international team
- passion for science and the motivation to work on an innovative project
- Desirable: experience in working with a mouse model

### Job Position:

A PhD position (E13, 65%) starting 01.09.2020 for the period of three years. The Heinrich Heine University is committed to equal opportunity in employment and gender equality in its working environment. Handicapped applicants with equal qualifications will be preferred.

### Application procedure:

Please send your full application **until 15.07.2020** which includes a brief cover letter, your CV, relevant transcripts, and an essay (½ to 1 page) explaining why studying fetal programming and early preadipocyte development is of interest to you. Only complete applications sent as a single pdf-file to "Regina.Ensenaer at med.uni-duesseldorf.de" will be considered.