

**List of PhD candidates Postgraduate Program**  
**"Infection Research on Human Pathogens@MvPI", May 2024**

**Benedikt von Armansperg:**



Hi, my name is Benedikt von Armansperg and I have been a doctoral student in the WG Stecher since summer 2019. I completed my B.Sc. in 2016 at the University of Konstanz and my M.Sc. in 2019 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. During my studies, Microbiology and Molecular Biology were my main fields of interest. In my PhD project, I investigate the influence of human-targeted drugs & secondary metabolites on the regulation of virulence factors in EHEC (enterohemorrhagic *E.coli*). To address this question, I perform high-throughput screens, cloning, enzymatic assays and growth analyses.

**Johanna Beilmann**



Hello, my name is Johanna and I am part of the Josenhans-lab. After completing my Bachelor's in Biotechnology in Aachen and my Master's in Microbiology in Jena, I wanted to go deeper in the field of medical microbiology. Therefore, I started my PhD in the field of *Helicobacter pylori*

at the MvP institute researching the interaction of host-microbes *via* outer membrane proteins. In my free time, I like to bake, do yoga and read fantasy books.

### **João Vasco Côrte-Real**



Hi, my name is João Vasco Côrte-Real and I have been a doctoral student since October 2020 and joined the AG Baldauf in November 2021. I completed both my B.Sc. and my M. Sc. at the University of Porto. During my studies, I started to be drawn to understanding the interactions between host and infectious pathogen. In my PhD project, I am developing a humanized rabbit animal model to study HIV-1 infection with the aim to develop new therapeutic approaches. On my free time I love to play rugby and also boxing.

### **Wilhelm Gottschall**



Hi, my name is Wilhelm Gottschall and I have been a doctoral student in the working group of Prof. Suerbaum since Fall 2020. I completed by B.Sc. in Chemistry and Biochemistry and my M.Sc. in Biochemistry at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. During my studies, Molecular and Cellular Genetics were my main fields of interest. In my PhD project, I am characterizing the function of different methyltransferases of *Helicobacter pylori* using both computational and experimental approaches. In my free time I like to do yoga, go to the movies and the theatre, read books and listen to music.

## Srujita Mahankali



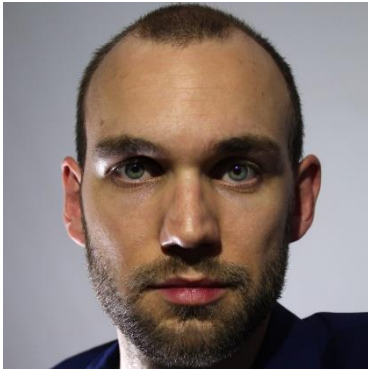
Hello, my name is Srujita and I have been a doctoral candidate at the Geiger lab since December 2023. Having discovered an interest in science during primary school, I did my Master's of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the LMU and my Bachelor's at SRM IST in India. I also worked a student job caring for mice and rats at the animal facility of the Nuclear medicine department of the LMU Klinikum. Currently, I am working with typhoidal *Salmonella* and the typhoid toxin at the MvPI. Outside of work, you can find me crocheting, reading, working on a jigsaw puzzle or jumping into a lake with friends.

## Felix Metz



Following my masters studies at the FH Flensburg in "Biotechnology and Process Engineering" I spend three years working in the pharmaceutical industry. Due to my keenness for science and infection biology I returned to academia for my doctoral studies, currently working on Protein-Protein interactions and the export capacities of the *Helicobacter pylori* CagT4SS in the Josenhans lab.

## **Fabian Neukirchinger**



Hi, my name is Fabian Neukirchinger and I have been a doctoral student in the WG Suerbaum since March 2023. I completed my B.Sc. and my M.Sc. in physics at the Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich. During my studies, Biophysics and medical physics were my main fields of interest. In my PhD project, I investigate the influence of methylation on genome conformation and features of methyltransferases themselves. To address these questions, I perform high-throughput chromosome conformation capture, HPLC, cloning, and enzymatic assays.

## **Lubna Patel**



Hey all, I am Lubna. I did my Bachelor's in biotechnology at the University of Mumbai, India. During which I became interested in antimicrobial resistance studies. Delving deeper into this subject area, I developed a penchant for host-microbe interactions and hence pursuing my PhD in *Helicobacter pylori* infection research at the MvPI (AG Josenhans). I like to spend my time away from the lab doing yoga, reading and obsessing over felines.

## Alejandro Salinas



Hi, my name is Alejandro Salinas and I have been a doctoral student at the AG Baldauf since December 2021. I completed both my B.Sc. and my M. Sc. at the LMU Munich. During my studies, synthetic biology and all sorts of applied research were my main fields of interest. I also worked in the industry in 2021 for the Pharma company Roche in Zürich and learned a lot about therapy development. Now in my PhD project, I am developing a protein delivery tool based on non-infectious HIV particles. My aim is to use these particles to fight against chemotherapy resistance in cancerous cells.

## Marta Salvado Silva



Hello, my name is Marta Salvado Silva and I am a doctoral candidate at the Stecher lab. I joined the group in May 2020 and I have been working on gut bacteria evolution and colonization resistance. Before joining this group, I did my bachelor's in Biochemistry and master's degree in Microbiology, in Portugal. I have worked in several research areas from host-pathogen interactions in *Drosophila* to phage cocktails to treat antibiotic resistant infections. When I am not in the lab, I love to meet with friends, swim and play the violin.

## Mrinalini Srinivasan



Hello everyone, my name is Mrinalini and I am a doctoral researcher in the Fischer group where we are working on getting a better insight into the T4SS of *Helicobacter pylori*. Understanding the world of microbiology, especially those related to the human body, caught my interest ever since I was introduced to the subject. I have a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Zoology & Microbiology from the University of Bangalore, India and a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, Germany. When I am not in the lab, you'll probably find me travelling and trying to befriend every dog I meet.

## Lena Thiessen



Hello, my name is Lena Thiessen and I'm currently doing my PhD in the AG Adler focusing on human cytomegalovirus glycoproteins, their functions and how to prevent infection. After completing a vocational training as a technician, I wanted to dig deeper into science and studied biochemistry at the LMU Munich. My first contact with virology was during my bachelor thesis at the AG Adler and I decided to dig deeper into the topic by focusing on virology during my masters and PhD. In my free time, I enjoy being in the mountains (hiking, biking) and do yoga.

## Patrick Wehrle



Hello, I'm Patrick and since the beginning of 2024, I'm a doctoral student at the Josenhans Lab. With a strong interest in natural sciences since my childhood, I was happy to successfully complete my bachelor's and master's thesis in Biological Sciences at the University of Constance. After a quick excursion to the biotechnological industry, I returned to academia to strengthen my knowledge in infection biology and innate immunity. In my free time, I love to meet my friends, to go for a swim in the Isar or go skating.

## Hsiu-Hui Yang



I'm Hsiu-Hui Yang, currently pursuing my doctoral studies at Max von Pettenkofer Institute in LMU since the summer of 2022. I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from National Taiwan University, followed by a Master of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from National Taiwan University, College of Medicine. Throughout my academic journey, I've been switching between different fields and finally decided to start my PhD journey in the field of Virology. My doctoral research focuses on exploring the impact of several HIV-1 host and restriction factors in the primary CD4 T cells. To delve into this inquiry, I employ a variety of methodologies including primary immune cell isolation and differentiation, flow cytometry, viral infection experiment and several biochemistry and molecular biology assays.