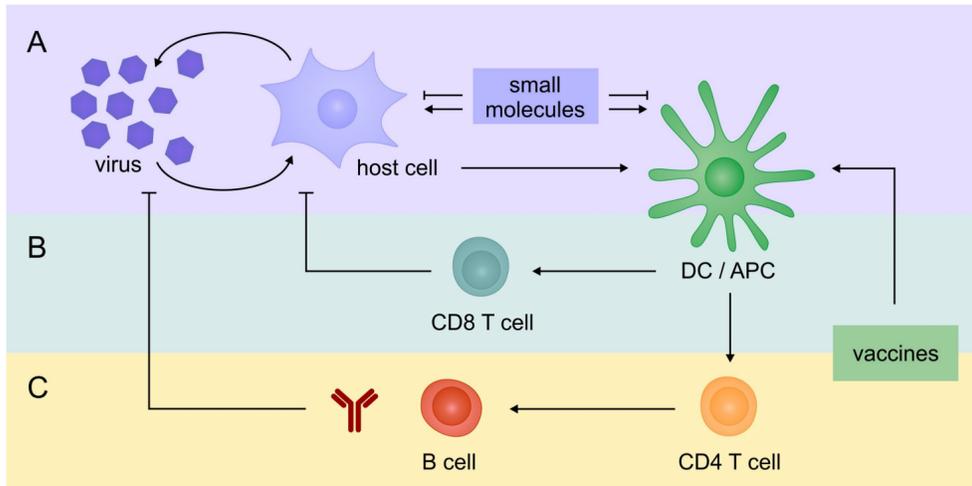


CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Medical Doctoral (Dr. med.) student positions available

GRK 2504: Novel antiviral approaches



Our research programme aims to explore novel approaches for antiviral chemotherapy and immune intervention that build on recent developments in molecular virology and immunology. The individual research projects address **antiviral small molecules (area A)**, **immune cell-mediated antiviral effects (area B)**, and **antibody-based approaches (area C)**. Altogether, we envision multimodal antiviral strategies that combine antiviral chemotherapy with immune-based interventions as the most promising path towards the control of persistent viruses. **For excellent candidates, we offer MD thesis projects embedded in the training program of GRK 2504 based on a 1-year fellowship for a research sabbatical.**

Open positions and training program

#	PI(s)	Thesis topic
Area A: Antiviral small molecules		
A1 + A5	M. Marschall & H. Sticht	Investigation of the structural principles that enable formation of higher oligomers of the HCMV nuclear egress complex
A2	A. Thoma-Kreß	Antiviral properties of breast milk towards respiratory viruses
Area B: Harnessing T-cell immunity		
B2	C. Lehmann	Trained immunity – the underestimated memory of the innate immune system
B4	J. Dörrie	New tumor-specific T-cell receptors as research tools and weapons against Merkel cell carcinoma
B5	M. Tenbusch	Impact of the Ig subclass of non-neutralizing antibodies on the pathogenesis of Influenza A Viruses
B6	A. Ensser	Evaluation of halflife-extended MCMV targeted Bispecific T cell enhancers and characterization of viral evasion

Mar 2026 –
Sep 2026

Qualification phase

(in parallel to studying medicine)

- lecture: Basics of antiviral strategies
- introduction to methods
- 5 day lab course
- proposal writing course with thesis proposal submission

Oct 2026 –
Sep 2027

Experimental phase

(1 semester research sabbatical
1 year fellowship)

- experimental work
- internal seminar
- guest seminars
- retreat

Oct 2027 –
Sep 2028

Evaluation phase

(in parallel to studying medicine)

- scientific presentation
- scientific writing
- participation at conference
- writing of thesis and manuscript

Dr. med.

Application prolonged until Feb 15, 2026
to grk2504-info@fau.de using the
application form on the GRK 2504 website !