

iSTAR

integrative Advanced Clinician Scientists Targeting
Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases

iSTAR Advanced Clinician Scientist

1. iSTAR Retreat
2. News from research: Rosenkranz`s Lab
3. News from research: Pagel`s Lab
4. Call for applications

1. iSTAR Retreat

The iSTAR Retreat 2023 took place as a hybride-meeting at the Elsa Brändström Haus in September. We enjoyed great talks by the iSTARs, fruitful discussions and mentoring sessions. We are particularly grateful for the international mentors for taking the time and effort to participate as well as for their insightful comments. It has been a great pleasure to welcome you. Furthermore, we had excellent trainings by the iSTAR coach, Dr. Michael Gordian.





Dr. Julia Pagel received her iSTAR Certificate.

2. News from research: Rosenkranz`s Lab



Dr. Sina Rosenkranz is the head of the laboratory “Behavioral interventions in neuroimmunology” ([link to the Rosenkranz Group](#)) at the Institute of Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis (INIMS). She recently published, together with cooperation partners and on behalf of the MoXFo initiative, recommendations, which are intended to improve the quality of future mechanistic exercise studies in MS and consequently lead to a better understanding of therapeutic approaches. The recommendations have been published in the *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*.

Literature: [Rosenkranz SC](#), Ploughman M, Hvid LG, Zimmer P, Erickson K, Stellmann JP, Centonze D, Friese MA. The MoxFo initiative-Mechanisms of action: Biomarkers in multiple sclerosis exercise studies. *Mult Scler*. 2023 Nov;29(13):1569-1577. doi: 10.1177/13524585231204453. Epub 2023 Oct 26. PMID: 37880953; PMCID: PMC10637103.

Graphical Abstract

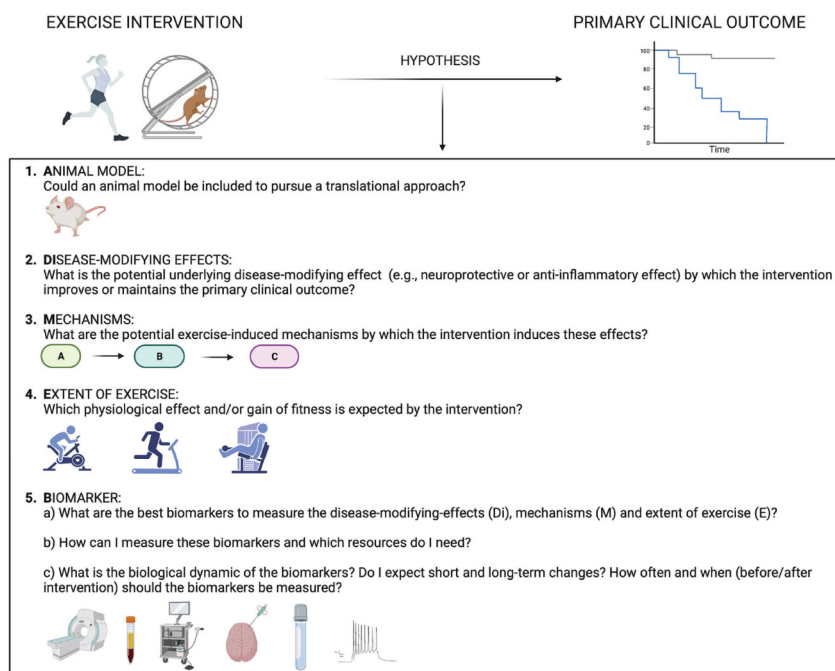


Figure 1. Mechanistic key questions investigators should ask when designing their exercise studies in MS. The flowchart shows a structured approach to uncover the underlying mechanisms of the expected primary clinical outcome of the exercise intervention following the ADiMEB checklist

In July 2023 Dr. Rosenkranz published new insights on “Visual function resists early neurodegeneration in the visual system in primary progressive multiple sclerosis” in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*.

Literature: [Rosenkranz SC](#), Gutmann L, Has Silemek AC, Dorr M, Häußler V, Lüpke M, Mönch A, Reinhardt S, Kuhle J, Tilsley P, Heesen C, Friese MA, Brandt A, Paul F, Zimmermann H, Stellmann JP. Visual function resists early neurodegeneration in the visual system in primary progressive multiple sclerosis. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2023 Nov;94(11):924-933. doi: 10.1136/jnnp-2023-331183. Epub 2023 Jul 11. PMID: 37433662.

3. News from research: Pagel`s Lab



The iSTAR [Dr. Julia Pagel](#) is a medical specialist working in the [Department of Pediatrics](#). She recently published a shared last authorship article on COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination in the Journal *Viruses*.

Literature: Lalia JK, Schild R, Lütgehetmann M, Dunay GA, Kallinich T, Kobbe R, Massoud M, Oh J, Pietzsch L, Schulze-Sturm U, Schuetz C, Sibbertsen F, Speth F, Thieme S, Witkowski M, Berner R, Muntau AC, Gersting SW, Toepfner N, [Pagel J](#), Paul K. Reduced Humoral and Cellular Immune Response to Primary COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination in Kidney Transplanted Children Aged 5-11 Years. *Viruses*. 2023 Jul 14;15(7):1553. doi: 10.3390/v15071553.

Both projects were co-financed by the *Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung* (Funding reference number 01EO2106).

4. Call for applications

The next round of application is currently open. Applications must be submitted by email to iSTAR@uke.de until the **16th of December 2023**.

Please scan the QR-code for further information.



Please do not hesitate to contact Sonja Hiekmann (iSTAR@uke.de) if you have comments or questions regarding the iSTAR program. If you do not wish to receive any further iSTAR newsletters, please reply to this email with “Unsubscribe” in the reference line.