

1st Newsletter

iSTAR Advanced Clinician Scientist



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The BMBF-funded program „iSTAR-integrative Advanced Clinician Scientists Targeting Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases” supports excellent clinician scientists to develop independence and leadership in the field of immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. The program started on **1st of August 2021** at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf under the supervision of **Prof. Dr. med. Samuel Huber, Prof. Dr. med. Marylyn M. Addo** and **Prof. Dr. med. Tobias B. Huber**.

1. Election of the spokesperson

The iSTAR *Steering Committee* has elected Prof. Dr. S. Huber as the spokesperson for a period of three years.

2. Recruitment of iSTAR participants

The call for iSTAR applications was published internally on the UKE homepage and externally in renowned scientific journals. The aim is to not only recruit clinicians from the UKE, but also from across Germany and worldwide. The iSTAR program uses a transparent three-stage selection process. For further information regarding the selection process, please follow this [link](#).

From the several excellent applications, three were selected. The first iSTAR candidate, **Dr. Johann von Felden** is going to start on 1st July. He is working in the I. Department of Medicine at the UKE and is interested in “The functional role of tumor-derived extracellular vesicles in tumor initiation and immune evasion of Hepatocellular carcinoma”.

The second iSTAR candidate, **Dr. Tilo Freiwald** is currently working at the National Institute of Health (Bethesda, USA). He is going to start in the iSTAR program as part of the III. Department of Medicine in November. His research focuses on “The inflammatory effects of intracellular complement C3 produced by renal tubular epithelial cells in lupus nephritis”.

Dr. Sina Rosenkranz, the third iSTAR candidate, is going to start in the iSTAR program in 2023 as part of the Department of Neurology. Her research focus lies on “Improving neuronal energy deficiency through pharmacological and behavioral interventions as a neuroprotective strategy in multiple sclerosis”.

3. iSTAR Homepage

The [iSTAR homepage](#) was published in March 2022. On this website you can access the latest news regarding events, the call for applications, mentors of the program as well as discoveries and publications by the Advanced Clinician Scientists.

The second round of applications is currently open until **30th of June 2022**. Please share this information with potential candidates.

4. iSTAR Retreat 2022

The first iSTAR Retreat will take place as a hybrid-meeting at the Dorint Hotel in Hamburg-Eppendorf on Tuesday 4th of October 2022. In addition to presentations by the iSTAR candidates, there will be coaching sessions held by an external coach and the iSTAR mentors. Furthermore, the kick-off session for the Assessment Center aimed at continuously monitoring the individual outcome of the participants will be organized. This will help the iSTAR participants to constantly adjust and improve general and individual outcomes.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sonja Hiekmann (iSTAR@uke.de) if you have comments or questions regarding the iSTAR program.