

Educating the new generation internationally competitive, basic, translational and clinician scientists in infectious diseases.

The mission of the DZIF Academy is to offer a comprehensive and structured training and education program for young MDs and PhDs at all levels of their academic careers in infectious diseases and to particularly attract medical trainees into infection research. By focusing on all aspects of translational research, the DZIF Academy provides a high-level qualification in infection research and is key to a successful career for young scientists.

Clinical Leave Stipend	Laboratory Rotation Stipend	Maternity Leave Stipend	MD Stipend	MD/PhD Stipend	DZIF Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging, training and supporting clinician scientists to strengthen translational infection research by granting 12 – 18 months of protected research time. This can be integrated into clinical specialist training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports next-generation scientists by covering travel and accommodation for short visits to laboratories within or beyond the DZIF network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the careers of female clinician and basic scientists upon re-entering the working environment after maternity leave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting young talent into translational infection research by granting stipends to medical students aiming to complete an experimental study and join a structured doctoral program for their MD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants MDs two years of complete release from clinical duties in order to participate in graduate schools or PhD programs and obtain a PhD in infection research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects young researchers with senior faculty and international experts. Summer School focuses on theoretical basics of translational infection research Autumn School connects clinician scientists.

DZIF Stipends	2012	2013	2014	2015
Clinical Leave	12	18	15	16
Laboratory Rotation	NA	NA	9	2
Maternity Leave	2	3	2	4
MD	36	11*	10*	31
MD/PhD	NA	NA	3	4
Total	50	32	39	57

*reduced capacity due to budget restrictions and start of new programs



Training

The following training elements / courses have been established in collaboration with the DZIF TTUs and TIs and external partners:

- ✦ Bioinformatics
- ✦ Multimodal and life cell imaging
- ✦ Product development
- ✦ Regulatory affairs
- ✦ Clinical training management
- ✦ Gene therapy
- ✦ Presentation skills: PhD student “boot camp”

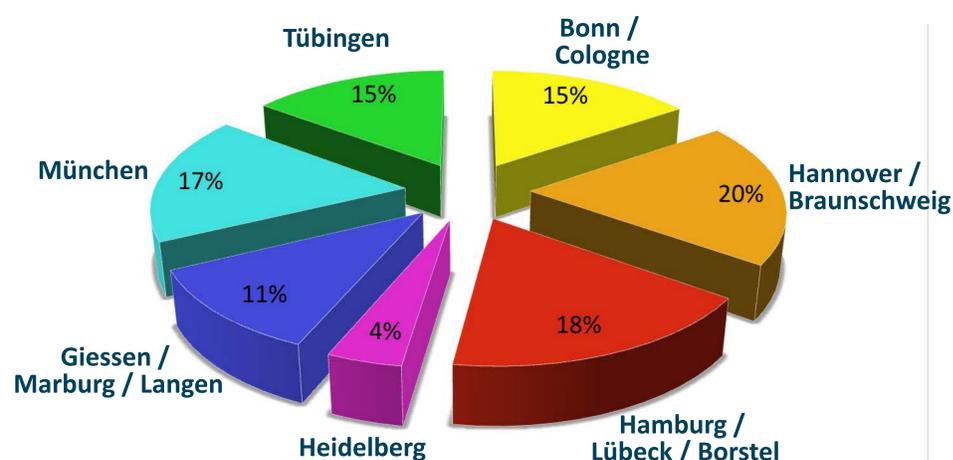
Quality Management

Each DZIF focus site has nominated at least two delegates responsible for training and education. These persons comprise the members of the **DZIF Academy Steering Committee**, which is responsible for developing, structuring and steering the DZIF Academy activities and for reviewing stipend applications.

BN-K:	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Wieland, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Spengler
GI-MAR:	Prof. Dr. Florian Wagenlehner, Prof. Dr. Katja Becker
H-BS:	Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Hauser, Prof. Dr. Reinhold Schmidt, Prof. Dr. Hildegard Büning
HH-LÜ-BOR:	Prof. Dr. Jan Rupp, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Christoph Lange
HD:	Dr. Ann-Kristin Müller, Dr. Dirk Grimm
M:	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Protzer (Coordinator), Dr. Cauleen Noël, PhD (Project Manager) Prof. Dr. Oliver Keppler
TÜ:	Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Christian Gille, Dr. Dirk Kraus

An **evaluation process** has been introduced to continuously refine the DZIF Academy program. Evaluation sheets are distributed after each school and training course, and follow-up evaluations have been asked from stipendiaries as well as beneficiary and host laboratories. DZIF encouraged the establishment of **structured doctorate programs** at all partner sites since it made integration into such a program a prerequisite for stipend funding.

Academy funds distribution 2013-2015



Although most TTUs and all DZIF partner sites could benefit from the DZIF Academy, funds have been distributed rather unevenly because the Academy strives for fostering individual excellence irrespective of gender, nationality or home institution. Thus, a number of international students profited from the Academy, many of them also taking advantage of e.g. DAAD or CSC stipend programs. To strengthen its **international status** and **international exchange**, the Academy is seeking collaboration with ANRS in France, MRC in England and CERHA in Israel.

Recent Achievements of DZIF Academy Stipendiaries

- **Dr. Julie Lucifora, PhD** (Maternity Leave 2012): EASL European Young Investigator Award 2015
- **Dr. Sandra Ciesek, MD** (Maternity Leave 2014): Assistant Professorship offered
- **Dr. Julian Schulze zur Wiesch, MD** (Clinical Leave 2012): Robert-Koch-Förderpreis für junge Wissenschaftler 2014
- **Dr. Philipp Lutz, MD** (Clinical Leave 2012): GASL 2014 Poster Prize
- **Dr. Julia Pagel, MD** (Clinical Leave 2013): Heinrich-Finkelstein Prize for Pediatric Research; Research grant “Lübeck-Hilfe für krebskranke Kinder e.V.”
- **Dr. Maria Vehreschild, MD** (Maternity Leave 2012, 2015): Best Abstract Prize for DGHO 2015, OeGHO 2015, SGMO & SGH 2015
- **Dr. Julia Fischer, MD** (Clinical Leave 2012): Cologne-Fortune-Funding Starter Grant
- **Dr. Johannes Pfeil, MD** (Clinical Leave 2013): HRCMM Career Development Fellowship
- **Dr. Andrea Schiefer, PhD** (Maternity Leave Fellowship 2014): Innovationspreis 2015 der Bioregionen in Deutschland, Memento Price for Neglected Diseases 2015

Future Plans 2016 – 2020

Our continuous focus will be:

- ✦ to attract talented MD students and young MDs into infection research
- ✦ translational research training and career support of PhD students
- ✦ fostering clinician scientist careers
- ✦ support continuation of careers of female scientists
- ✦ encourage excellence in infection research

As a result of our evaluations, **alumni platforms** are being established for Clinical Leave and Maternity Leave stipendiaries. A **six-month follow-up stipend** has been added to the Clinical Leave program, and MD/PhD-candidates may work in parallel on their **specialist training** (Facharzt Ausbildung) at certain sites from 2016 onwards.

Our plans for 2016 - 2020 are:

- ✦ Improvement of clinician scientist career development by integrating research and clinical training and continued support through follow-up stipends
- ✦ Broad course program in state-of-the-art methodology, translational research and soft skills
- ✦ On-site seminars in translational research together with other centers for health research
- ✦ Continued internationalization
- ✦ Alumni stipendiary program