PhD Position / Doktorand*in

At the Department of Immune Modulation

**Project title:**

“Functional modulation of regulatory T cells and analyses of the underlying mechanisms”

A PhD position (65% TV-L E 13), funded by the DFG for 3 years, is available at the Department of Immune Modulation (University Hospital Erlangen) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Alexander Steinkasserer.

The overall aim of this project is the identification of new pathways to specifically modulate Treg differentiation and stability in the context of autoimmunity. Using cell specific conditional knock-out animals, we have previously shown that the specific loss of CD83 expression by Tregs, leads to the downregulation of Treg-specific differentiation markers and the induction of an inflammatory phenotype. Furthermore, these Treg-specific conditional CD83 KO mice showed aggravated autoimmunity and a strongly impaired resolution of inflammation ([Döbbeler et al., JCI Insight. 2018; https://insight.jci.org/articles/view](https://insight.jci.org/articles/view)). The underlying mechanisms will now be investigated in the context of the granted research project.

**Within this DFG funded project we will focus on the following research questions:**

- How are Treg specific TLR pathways modified by CD83?
- Decipher new signaling pathways involved in CD83-dependent Treg modulation.
- Identify and characterize newly elucidated CD83 modulated pathways in human Tregs.

The applicant must have a MSc in biology or a similar degree. Other requirements are experience in cellular and/ or molecular immunology, good analytical skills and being familiar with Windows Excel, Word, Power Point etc. The student should be highly motivated, interested in research, be a team-player and able to work independently.

Please send your application via e-mail, including a curriculum vitae, certificates and transcripts of academic degrees to Prof. Alexander Steinkasserer.