P09: PhD-Project
based at the
Department of Cardiology and Angiology I

Cross-Talk Between the Heart and the Haematopoietic Niche in Post-Myocardial Infarction Lesion Remodelling

**Background**

Inflammation is essential for wound healing and tissue remodelling after acute or chronic myocardial injury. While inflammation is a prerequisite for wound healing, excessive or prolonged inflammatory activity has been associated with increased scarring, cardiac dilation and loss of cardiac function. Demand for inflammatory leukocytes after injury increases haematopoietic stem cell (HSC) activity in the bone marrow (BM). Upon activation, quiescent HSC enter the cell cycle to increase the production of downstream progeny. Whether the haematopoietic emergency response after MI resolves completely and returns to homeostasis, or whether a pro-inflammatory footprint remains in the haematopoietic system, is currently unknown. In this project we aim to profile the haematopoietic innate immune response after MI to identify its epigenetic and transcriptional regulation and its effect on cardiac lesion remodeling.

**Project tasks**

Transcriptional and epigenetic profiling of innate immune cells from various sources (bone marrow, spleen, blood, heart) after MI. Therapeutic modulation of the hematopoietic response to improve cardiac lesion remodelling after MI.

**Qualifications and Requirements**

- High motivation to work on a cutting edge research topic in a highly interdisciplinary and supportive environment
- Solid background in immunobiology
- Prior experience in the handling of biological models, as well as in cellular (FACS, IHC) and molecular (qPCR, RNAseq) techniques would be desirable
- Excellent MSc in a field relevant for the proposed study
- English language proficiency at level B2 or higher

**Research Areas**

Myocardial infarction, Inflammation, Immunobiology

**Experimental Tasks**

- Characterisation of innate immune cells after MI
- Assessment of cardiac cardiac function and remodeling

**Student Background**

Biology, (Molecular) Medicine

**Starting Date**

from 01/07-2020

**PhD Advisor**

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**Applications via**

SGBM portal
Submission window: 08-30/06-2020