Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Thomas F. Meyer

Personal and Professional Information

Born August 07, 1952, Mannheim, Germany

1971-1979	Study of Biology at the University of Heidelberg; 1977 Diploma, 1979 PhD ('summa cum laude')
1979-1980	Junior scientist, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Department of Molecular Biology, Heidelberg.
1980-1981	Research fellow of the German Research Council (DFG) at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
1981-1982	Visiting scientist at the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York
1982-1983	Staff scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg
1983-1985	Group leader at the Centre for Molecular Biology at Heidelberg University (ZMBH)
1985-1990	Head of a research unit ('C3' tenured) at the Max Planck Institute for Biologie, Tübingen
1990-2006	Professor ('apl.') at University of Tübingen, Biology Faculty
1990-2000	Member of the Max Planck Institute for Biology and Director of the Department of Molecular Biology, Tübingen
1994	Co-Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin; Department of Molecular Biology
2003-2005; 2009-2011 and 2015-2017	Managing Director, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin
2009	Foundation, Steinbeis Innovation Center for Systems Biomedicine (non-for-profit organisation)

- Participation in numerous national evaluation and international strategic research panels
- Participation in editorial boards and manuscript evaluation (~60 different journals)
- Coordination of large collaborative research projects (~4)

Awards

1980	Carl Clemm - Carl Haas - Research Award, University of Heidelberg
1981	Otto Hahn Medal, Max Planck Society
1986	Heinz Maier Leibnitz Award, Federal Minister for Science and Education
1989	Main award, Foundation of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology
1989	Elected Member, European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)
1993	Max Planck International Collaboration Award of the Alexander van Humboldt Foundation
1996	Aronson Award of the Federal State of Berlin
2001	Elected Fellow of the German Academy of Naturalists Leopoldina

2004 Honorary Professor Humboldt University Berlin

2005 Honorary Professor Charité University Medicine Berlin

2016 Member European Academy of Microbiology

2017 Honorary Professor Zhengzhou University / Fifth Associated Hospital, China

2018 Appointed Member of the American Association of Cancer Research

Publication statistics (1978 – 2018)

Total: >360 original peer-reviewed articles (without book chapters)

H-Index (Meyer TF): Web of Science: 76 / Google Scholar: 101

Publications in Top Journals (IF10 above or nearby): Nature (9x); Cell (7x); Total (65x)

Current Research Focus

The Role of Bacterial Infections in Human Carcinogenesis

The human mucosa is the major crossing point for molecular interaction between our body and the environment. This is where most pathogens initiate their infections and where our defense system is challenged to rapidly counteract any approaching assaults. Repeated or persistent onslaughts of this kind, however, tend to cause permanent damage to our epithelium and, not surprisingly, the mucosal epithelium is the site most prone to carcinogenesis, a consequence of enhanced mutagenesis, inflammation and cell proliferation. Several clear links have been noted between chronic bacterial infections and carcinogenesis; however, the underlying mechanisms of this likely fatal relationship are still sparsely understood. Exploring these mechanisms promises to pave the way towards better prevention and treatment of the disease

(1) Comparative studies of potentially carcinogenic microbes: The gastric bacterium Helicobacter pylori serves as a model to assess mechanistic similarities and differences in comparison with other tentatively cancer-associated bacterial pathogens.

(2) Human organoids and mucosoids: While the department has pioneered the use of innovative organoid and mucosoid models, these approaches are being advanced to allow insight to infections in the tissue context.

(3) Functional genomics of cancer initiation: Breakthrough technologies, such as RNA interference and CRISPR/Cas9, are extensively used in their work to decipher beneficial and potentially deleterious gene functions and genetic defects.

(4) Origin of cancer-initiating cells: Sophisticated genetic lineage tracing tools help to illuminate the earliest events in cancer initiation and the various stages of carcinogenesis.

(5) Analyzing human cancer progression: Collaboration with clinical centres is providing valuable direction to provide advanced understanding of the various stages of cancer initiation and progression, as well as the role of infectious agents.

(6) Signatures of infection in the cancer genome: Identifying genetic signatures that bacterial pathogens are thought to leave behind in human cells will provide genuine evidence for the causality

between infections and cancer emergence. First demonstration of validity of approach provided by Koeppel et al 2014.

Training and Mentoring of Young Scientists

(Excerpt from List of Thomas Meyer's Alumni)

Dr. Anton Aebischer, Head of Unit, Robert-Koch-Institut Berlin (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Steffen Backert, Chair of Microbiology, University of Erlangen (former postdoc and project leader)

Dr. Sina Bartfeld, Independent Group Leader, University of Würzburg, Germany (former Ph.D. student)

Dr. Oliver Billker, Senior Group Leader, Welcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK – and appointed Director of MIMS and Professor of Department of Molecular Biology at Umeå University, and Scientific Coordinator of Umeå Centre for Microbial Research (UCMR) Sweden (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Holger Brüggemann, Professor MSO of Molecular Bacteriology, Aarhus University (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Dirk Bumann, Full Professor for Infection Biology, Biocenter, University of Basel (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Christoph Dehio, Full Professor, Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland (former Postdoc and group leader)

Prof. Dr. Matthias Frosch, Dean of Medical Faculty, Director of Medical Microbiology, University of Würzburg, Germany (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Oscar G. Gómez MD, PhD, Associate Professor and Chief Infectious Diseases, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Department of Pediatrics (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Scott Gray-Owen, PhD., Full Professor, University of Toronto, Canada (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Rainer Haas, Professor and Research Group Leader at Ludwig Maximilian University, München (former Ph.D. student and postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Christof R. Hauck, Chair of Cell Biology, University of Konstanz (former Ph.D. student and postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Marieke van Ham, Head of Department Immunopathology, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands / President of 5th European Congress of Immunology 2018 (former Ph.D. student)

Dr. Dagmar Heuer, Group Leader, Robert Koch Institute (former Ph.D. student and postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Joachim Jose, Chair of Pharmaceutical and Medical Chemistry at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (former postdoc)

Prof. Hiroshi Kiyono, Director, International Research and Development Center for Mucosal Vaccines, The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Japan (former visiting scientist)

Dr. Terry Kwok-Schuelein, Senior Lecturer, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (former postdoc)

Prof. Dr. Anne Müller, Full Professor and Director, Institute of Molecular Cancer Research, University of Zurich (former Ph.D. student)

Prof. Michael Naumann, Full Professor and Director, Institute of Experimental Medicine, University of Magdeburg (former Group Leader)

Prof. Dr. Thomas-Günther Pomorski, Professor, University of Copenhagen and Ruhr University of Bochum (former Ph.D. student)

Prof. Dr. Jos van Putten, Full Professor and Programme Director of the Life Sciences strategic research theme and Chair Infection Biology, University of Utrecht, Veterinary Medicine, The Netherlands (former Group Leader)

Prof. Dr. Krishnaraj Rajalingam, Heisenberg Professor in Cell Biology, BIS-PLUS3 fellow, GRC fellow, Head of the Molecular Signaling Unit, University Medical Center, Universität Mainz, Germany (former Ph.D. student)

Prof. Dr. Thomas Rudel, Former Dean of Faculty and Chair of Microbiology, Biozentrum, University of Würzburg (former Ph.D. student and later Research Group Leader)

Prof. Dr. Matthias Selbach, Full Professor for Proteome Research at the Max-Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine and the Charité Berlin (former Ph.D. student)

Prof. Dr. Silja Weßler, Full Professor of Microbiology, University of Salzburg, Austria (former Ph.D. student)

Dr. Anna Walduck, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University Melbourne, Australia (former postdoc)

Dr. Christian Wunder, Researcher, Institut Curie, Paris, France (former clinician scientist)