

Visit to Essen, June 16th – September 30th 2014

As a MD student of Prof. Dongliang Yang's group at Wuhan Union Hospital, I was very lucky to have the chance to visit Prof. Timm's lab at the Institute for Virology / University of Duisburg-Essen for three months in the frame of the TRR60 "Young Scientists Exchange Programme".



In the collaboration project with Prof. Timm, we tried to compare the difference of selective mutations within HCV HLA-I restricted epitopes between the German and Chinese populations. During my stay with Prof. Timm's group, we analysed the sequences amplified in Wuhan by using the software developed by Prof. Daniel Hoffman's group. Then I learned the techniques for isolation and storage of PBMCs, specific T cell expansion and restimulation, and the intracellular IFN-gamma staining by FACS. We also synthesized certain peptides of one interest epitope, and I did several ICS tests by using German PBMCs with the help of Dr. Kathrin Skibbe. I also attended the weekly seminar of Prof. Timm's group, and did a presentation of my previous work. For the last few days of my stay, I attended the 4th TRR60 Annual Workshop held in Bochum, and discussed our future work together with Prof. Timm and Prof. Dongliang Yang. It is very beneficial for our current and future research work.



Thanks to the hospitality of the Institute for Virology, especially Prof. Timm's group, I was able to get a deeper understanding of German culture and I really enjoyed my stay in Essen.

Sincerely yours,

Youchen Xia