

Master thesis positions

Subject: Analysis of a new class of epigenetically active small non-coding RNAs

Place of work: Department of General Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Anna Spiegel II (AKH-Campus, 1090 Vienna)

Starting date: March 2026

Duration: 9 (work) + 3 (finishing and writing) months – full time

Topic: A new class of small RNAs was discovered, with characteristics different from all known small-RNA types discovered so far. They seem to be directly involved in epigenetic regulation of gene expression and cell differentiation, and—probably—in (transgenerational) epigenetic inheritance. Cell culture in combination with silencing and over-expression methods and high-throughput sequencing technologies will be employed to verify several characteristics inferred from the analyses of already obtained and publicly available data. The evolutionary aspect could also be analyzed.

Additional information: [Information \(Patent 1\)](#) [Patent 2](#)

Requirements:

- University/FH student with a Bachelor's degree in the field of molecular biology/biomedical sciences/biochemistry, e.g., VetMed: "Vergleichende Biomedizin" or "Evolutionary Genomics and Systems Biology"
- Profound wet lab skills are a prerequisite
- Experience in cell culture and molecular biological techniques
- Careful and diligent
- Willingness to work with material from patients
- High motivation; good communication, and team player skills
- Experience in bioinformatics (Linux) is a plus
- German language is also a plus

Compensation: according to Med. Univ. Vienna scheme ("Forschungsbeihilfe" € 440,- per month; 12 months)

If you are interested, please send your applications, including a letter of motivation, as soon as possible to:

Dietmar Pils (Principal Investigator)

Department of General Surgery

AKH/MUW: Anna Spiegel II – 25.04.324

A-1090 Vienna, Austria

Email: dietmar.pils@muv.ac.at

Web: [Link](#)