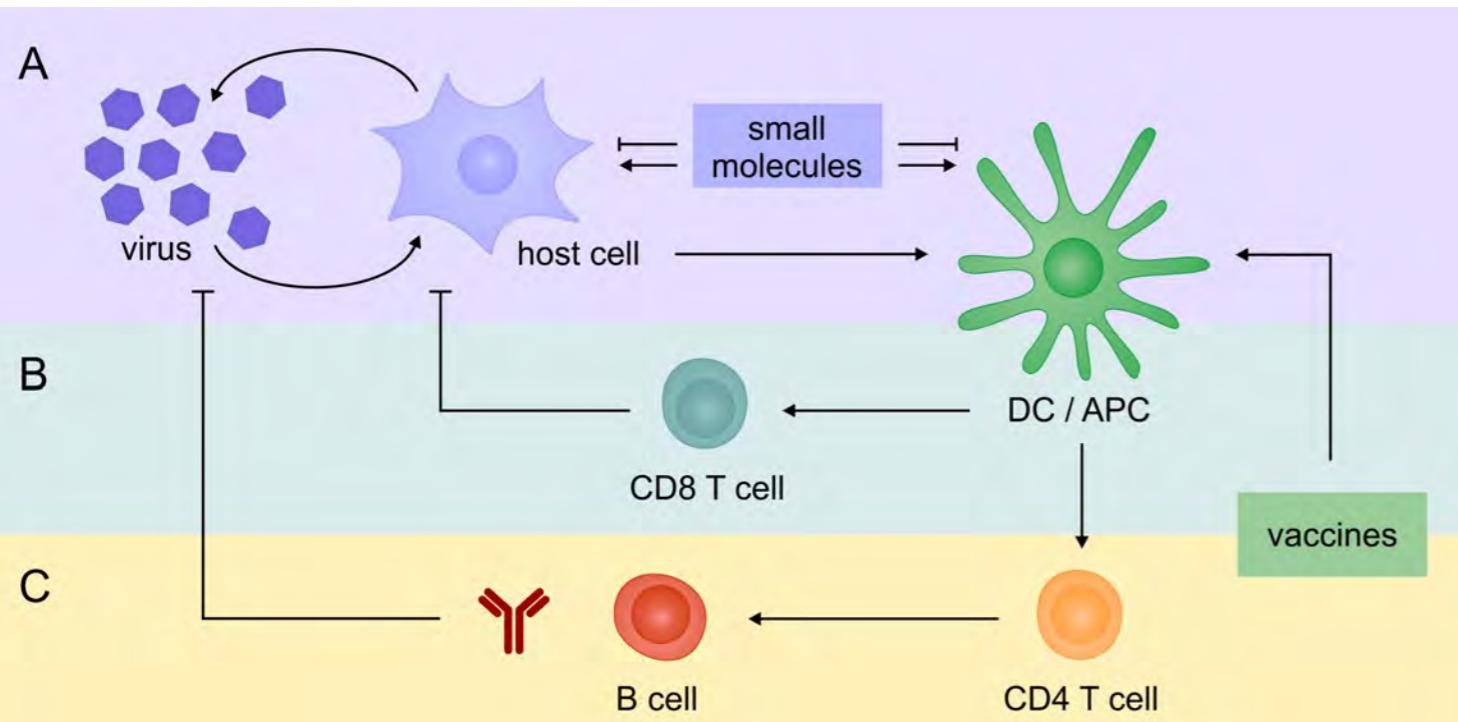


## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### Medical Doctoral (Dr. med.) student positions available

#### GRK 2504: Novel antiviral approaches



Our research programme aims to explore novel approaches for antiviral chemotherapy and immune intervention that build on recent developments in molecular virology and immunology. The individual research projects address **antiviral small molecules** (area A), **immune cell-mediated antiviral effects** (area B), and **antibody-based approaches** (area C). Altogether, we envision multimodal antiviral strategies that combine antiviral chemotherapy with immune-based interventions as the most promising path towards the control of persistent viruses. **For excellent candidates, we offer MD thesis projects embedded in the training program of GRK 2504 based on a 1-year fellowship for a research sabbatical.**

#### Open positions and training program

#	PI(s)	Thesis topic
<b>Area A: Antiviral small molecules</b>		
A1 + A5	M. Marschall & H. Sticht	Investigation of the structural principles that enable formation of higher oligomers of the HCMV nuclear egress complex
A2	A. Thoma-Kreß	Antiviral properties of breast milk towards respiratory viruses
<b>Area B: Harnessing T-cell immunity</b>		
B2	C. Lehmann	Trained immunity – the underestimated memory of the innate immune system
B4	J. Dörrie	New tumor-specific T-cell receptors as research tools and weapons against Merkel cell carcinoma
B5	M. Tenbusch	Impact of the Ig subclass of non-neutralizing antibodies on the pathogenesis of Influenza A Viruses
B6	A. Ensser	Evaluation of halflife-extended MCMV targeted Bispecific T cell enhancers and characterization of viral evasion

Mar 2026 –  
Sep 2026

Oct 2026 –  
Sep 2027

Oct 2027 –  
Sep 2028

**Qualification phase**  
(in parallel to studying medicine)

- lecture: Basics of antiviral strategies
- introduction to methods
- 5 day lab course
- proposal writing course with thesis proposal submission

**Experimental phase**  
(1 semester research sabbatical  
1 year fellowship)

- experimental work
- internal seminar
- guest seminars
- retreat

**Evaluation phase**  
(in parallel to studying medicine)

- scientific presentation
- scientific writing
- participation at conference
- writing of thesis and manuscript

Apply until January 31, 2026 to  
[grk2504-info@fau.de](mailto:grk2504-info@fau.de) using the  
application form on the GRK 2504  
website !

Dr. med.