The **Cluster of Excellence *"Balance of the Microverse"*** of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, combines expertise in life, material, optical and computational sciences to elevate microbiome studies from descriptive to hypothesis-driven and functional analyses. Our core mission is to elucidate fundamental principles of the interactions and functions in microbial communities in diverse habitats ranging from oceans and groundwater to plant and human hosts. We aim to identify the shared characteristics of disturbed or polluted ecosystems as well as infectious diseases on the microbiome level, and develop strategies for their remediation by targeted interventions. The affiliated early career program of the *Jena School for Microbial Communication (JSMC)* offers an ambitious, structured and interdisciplinary post-graduate training based on top-level fundamental research.

As part of the International Scientists Exchange Program
in our Cluster of Excellence *Balance of the Microverse* we invite applications for a

Postdoctoral Researcher in Innate Immunity (m/f/d)

Dr. Vijay Rathinam's laboratory at UConn Health School of Medicine, US investigates the innate immune mechanisms of inflammation at molecular and cellular levels. His current research focuses on understanding innate immune sensing of microbial and endogenous danger signals. For more details, please check:

- Bacterial outer membrane vesicles mediate cytosolic localization of LPS and caspase-11 activation. *Cell*. 2016 165(5):1106-19. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27156449/
- Gasdermin D restrains type I interferon response to cytosolic DNA by disrupting ionic homeostasis. *Immunity*. 2018 49(3): 413-426. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30170814/
- Intracellular immune sensing promotes inflammation via gasdermin D-driven release of a lectin alarmin. *Nature Immunology*. 2021. 22: 154–165. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33398185/
- https://facultydirectory.uchc.edu/profile?profileId=Rathinam-Vijay2.

A postdoctoral position is available to study host-microbe interactions focusing on extracellular vesicles, innate immunity, and inflammasomes in the context of infectious and inflammatory diseases including sepsis. This two-year postdoctoral position is jointly supervised by Vijay Rathinam (UConn Health) and Michael Bauer (Jena University Hospital). Most of the postdoctoral research will be conducted in Dr. Rathinam's lab at UConn Health and some in Jena. For more details on the Jena lab site, please visit:

- https://www.uniklinikum-jena.de/kai/Forschung.html

We are looking for an engaging and motivated individual to join our research cluster. Important will be the willingness to collaborate widely and to look beyond traditional disciplines to further our mission. The position is to be filled at the earliest possible date.

Your profile:

- A PhD or equivalent in Microbiology, Immunology, Molecular Biology and related fields. Candidates in the final stages of obtaining their degree are eligible to apply.
- Desirable methodological skills: excellent background and expertise in molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, immunology and/or microbiology, hands-on knowledge of analytical methods
- Outstanding track record of planning, performing, and publishing original research
- The abililty to work creatively and independently towards developing your own research project
- Excellent communication skills and a collaborative personality with enthusiasm for actively participating in the dynamic Microverse community

We offer:

- A highly communicative atmosphere within a scientific network providing top-level research facilities
- A comprehensive mentoring program and soft skill courses for early career researchers
- *Jena – City of Science*: a young and lively town with a vibrant local cultural agenda
- A family-friendly working environment with a variety of offers for families
- Remuneration based on the provisions of the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector of the Federal States (TV-L) up to salary scale E 13, depending on the candidate's personal qualifications

The full-time postdoctoral researcher position at the Jena University Hospital is for two years. We are an equal opportunity employer and part-time contracts can be discussed. Disabled persons with comparable qualifications will receive preferential status.

Applications are exclusively accepted via the JSMC Online Application Portal:

https://apply.jsmc.uni-jena.de/

Please familiarize yourself with the application process as described in the Online Application Portal.

Application deadline: 29 November 2021