Did you already bag your master's degree in the field of life sciences such as biology, biochemistry or pharmacy, and you are eager to step onto the next stage of your scientific career? Are you particularly interested in researching biological processes behind challenging diseases such as diabetes that plague our society?

HELMHOLTZ MUNICH

We are looking for a

PhD student in Type 2 Diabetes research (m/f/d)

Who can join us as soon as possible

Excessive lipid accumulation in adipocytes drives the expansion of dysfunctional adipose tissue, which, along with ectopic fat accumulation in organs such as the liver and pancreas, is commonly associated with insulin resistance and Type 2 Diabetes (T2D). Our group has found that pancreatic fat plays a negative role for insulin secretion in people with an increased risk to develop T2D. We also found that pancreatic adipose tissue of T2D patients is more insulin resistant and less lipolytic, which most likely alters pancreatic beta-cell function, e.g. insulin secretion.

The successful PhD candidate will join the **Islet Group** at the Institute for Diabetes Research and Metabolic Diseases of the Helmholtz Center München at the University of Tübingen (IDM) led by Prof. Dr. Andreas Birkenfeld. The PhD candidate will investigate **the implications of pancreatic fat accumulation on islet function** using pancreatic adipocytes and pancreatic islets from human donors and animal models. An organ-on-a-chip system will be established to assess the human islet-adipocyte crosstalk.

The PhD position is integrated in the **Research Training Group (RTG) 2816 of the German Research Foundation (DFG) "Non-canonical G protein-dependent signaling pathways: Mechanisms, Functions, Consequences".**

Initially limited for a period of 3 years in pay grade E13 TV-L (65%).

The ideal candidate must have:

- Master's degree or equivalent in life sciences, e.g. biology, biochemistry, medicine, veterinary medicine or pharmacy
- Experience with cell culture and/or molecular biology techniques.
- You may have prior knowledge in the fields of metabolism, molecular and cell biology.
- You are curious, ambitious, innovative, well-organized and have a strong interest in interdisciplinary and translational research with therapeutic implications
- You are a team player with good communication skills, have a solid command of English, and the ability to work in a collaborative and international environment

What do we offer you?

- International networking with excellent exchange opportunities, an outstanding scientific environment and state-of-the-art research infrastructure
- Intensive supervision, individually tailored curricula that include training in scientific, theoretical, practical, and social skills, as well as close mentoring at the beginning that increasingly turns into independence over time
- Embedding of the DFG funded RTG in the training and support programs of the Faculty of Medicine and the Graduate Academy of the University of Tübingen ensure the greatest possible success in your career track
- National partner network consisting of the Bosch Health Campus at Stuttgart, the European Center for Angioscience (ECAS) at the Mannheim Medical Faculty, and the Munich Helmholtz Center for Environmental Health

Interested?
Please send us your application as a compiled PDF document to the following email address:
estela.lorza-gil@med.uni-tuebingen.de

Required application documents include:

- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Letter of motivation (with possible starting date)
- Abstract of the Master Thesis (if already completed)
- Certificate of the professional university degree (if applicable, preliminary certificate)
- Certificate of the highest general education degree
- If possible, two references with name, affiliation and e-mail address