


## **IRTG 3019: MEDIS 1<sup>st</sup> Retreat**

- **Date:** Tuesday 06<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- **Venue:** University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden, MITS - Center for Metabolic-Immunological Diseases and Therapy Technologies Saxony (house 92); Fiedlerstr. 40; 01307 Dresden; entrance hall and seminar room (ground floor)
- **Hotel:** Hotel Andreas, Prellerstraße 18, 01309 Dresden

**Tuesday, 06<sup>th</sup> May 2025** - Arrival in Dresden until 12:00 AM


**Tuesday, 06<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

12:30-13:30	Registration and Lunch
13:30-14:15	<b>Opening and introduction of IRTG 3019 concept</b> Stefan R. Bornstein (IRTG TUD spokesperson), Nikolaos Perakakis (IRTG TUD spokesperson), Felix Beuschlein (IRTG Zurich spokesperson)
14:15-15:45	<b>Student presentation session I</b> Chairs: Ismini Alexaki (TUD), Philipp Gerber (UZH)  1. Agnes Wlodarczyk (TUD) The Role of Regulated Cell Death in Bacterial Sepsis-induced Adrenal Inflammation and Insufficiency ➔ Affiliated PhD student Supervisors: <u>Waldemar Kanczkowski</u> & Stefan Bornstein TUD  2. Alexander Kirschfink (UZH) Adrenal susceptibility to viral and bacterial infections ➔ Project 1 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Felix Beuschlein</u> & Zsuzanna Varga UZH; Stefan Bornstein & Waldemar KanczkowskiTUD  3. Marleen Hohnvehlmann (TUD) Adrenal gland susceptibility to viral and bacterial infections ➔ Project 1 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Waldemar Kanczkowski</u> & Stefan Bornstein TUD; Felix Beuschlein & Zsuzanna Varga UZH  4. Samira Kaziakhmedova (TUD) Glucocorticoids; hub between infection-susceptibility and inflammation treatment ➔ Project 6 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Charlotte Steenblock</u> & Stefan Bornstein & TUD; Ben Hale & Felix Beuschlein UZH  5. Isabell Heber (TUD) Glucocorticoid effects in adipocyte progenitors ➔ Project 3 (affiliated Dr. med. student) Supervisors: <u>Ismini Alexaki</u> & Andreas Linkermann TUD; Wei-Lynn Wong & Annelies Zinkernagel UZH

	6. Hüseyin Cihan (UZH) The SPECTRA Cohort Study - Swiss ProspEctive Cohort of TRAnsgender and gender diverse individuals → Project 1 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Bettina Winzeler</u> & Felix Beuschlein UZH; Stefan Bornstein & Waldemar Kanczkowski TUD
15:45-16:15	Break
16:00-16:10 	<b>Student speaker election</b>
16:15-17:45	<b>Networking session</b> IRTG students and PIs have time to meet, discuss, visit labs and create new ideas for the future
18:30-22:30	<b>Social Evening at "johann"</b> johann restaurant & elblounge Käthe-Kollwitz-Ufer 19b, 01307 Dresden


**Wednesday, 07<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

09:00-09:30	<b>Presentation drop-off</b>
09:30-11:00	<p><b>Student presentation session II</b> Chairs: Charlotte Steenblock (TUD), Claudia Cavelti-Weder (UZH)</p> <p>1. Arvind Reddy Kandi (TUD) Cell biology of diabetogenic viruses in pancreatic beta cells → Project 4 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Michele Solimena</u> &amp; Barbara Ludwig TUD; Alexandra Trkola &amp; Michael Huber UZH</p> <p>2. Trishla Adhikari (TUD) The role of perturbations of glucose metabolism in polymorphonuclear immune cell response to infectious and non-infectious inflammatory stimuli → affiliated PhD student Supervisors: Nikolaos Perakakis, Hani Harb TUD, Annelies Zingernagel UZH</p> <p>3. Hannah Moll (UZH) Personalized decision making in obesity therapy → Project 9 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Milo Puhan</u> &amp; Felix Beuschlein UZH; Stefan Bornstein &amp; Nicole Töpfer TUD</p> <p>4. Clarisse Engl (ETH) Investigating the postmenopausal changes in visceral adipose tissue linked to metabolic decline → Project 3 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Carla Horvath</u> &amp; Christian Wolfrum ETH; Peter Mirtschink &amp; Triantafyllos Chavakis TUD</p> <p>5. Anushka Dayal (TUD) Gut Macrophages as Mediators of MASLD Progression: Interplay of Diet and Intestinal Infections → Project 5 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Nikolaos Perakakis</u> &amp; Geltrude Mingrone TUD; Claudia Cavelti-Weder UZH</p> <p>6. Nirnisha Pramanik (TUD) Host-microbial crosstalk along the gut-liver axis in metabolic disease → Project 7 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Hani Harb</u> TUD; Emma Wetter Slack UZH</p> <p>7. Seyed Esmail (UZH) Metabolic and Endocrine Effects of Plasticizer Replacement Products in Mice → Project 5 (PhD student) Supervisors: <u>Nikolaos Perakakis</u> &amp; Geltrude Mingrone TUD; Claudia Cavelti-Weder UZH</p>
11:15-11:45	<b>break</b>
11:45-12:45	<p><b>Key note lecture/ Vision talk</b> <i>Respiratory virus infections beyond the lung: understanding the impact of sex hormones on disease outcome</i> Prof. Dr. Gülşah Gabriel (Head of Department Viral Zoonoses-One Health at Leibniz Institute of Virology, Hamburg; Professor of Virology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover)</p>

12:45-14:15	Lunch & Group picture
12:15-13:15	<b>Steering Committee Meeting</b> Prof. Stefan Bornstein; Prof. Nikolaos Perakakis; Prof. Felix Beuschlein; Dr. Carla Horvath; Prof. Barbara Ludwig; Prof. Claudia Cavelti-Weder; Student representatives from TUD and Zürich; Sindy Giebe
14:15-16:00	<b>Student presentation session III</b> Chairs: Peter Mirtschink (TUD), Carla Horvath (ETH) <p>1. Nikolaos Nirakis (TUD)  Cell death and microglia activation in neurodegeneration and chronic stress  → Project 3 (PhD student)  Supervisors: <u>Ismeni Alexaki</u> &amp; Andreas Linkermann TUD; Wei-Lynn Wong &amp; Annelies Zinkernagel UZH</p> <p>2. Leonie Mönch (UZH)  Longitudinal Monitoring during different Intermittent Fasting Protocols in Obese Adults – A Randomized Clinical Trial  → Project 8 (PhD student)  Supervisor: <u>Philipp Gerber</u> &amp; Annelies Zinkernagel UZH, Nikolaos Perakakis &amp; Hani Harb TUD;</p> <p>3. Nadia Schlebe (TUD)  Spatiotemporal dynamics of T-cells during MASLD development and progression  → Project 8 (affiliated Dr. med. student)  Supervisor: <u>Nikolaos Perakakis</u> &amp; Hani Harb TUD</p> <p>4. Sol Seo (TUD)  Hepatic and pulmonary mechanisms regulating immune responses to infectious diseases in MASLD and in relation to dietary interventions  → Project 8 (PhD student)  Supervisor: <u>Nikolaos Perakakis</u> &amp; Hani Harb TUD; Philipp Gerber &amp; Annelies Zinkernagel UZH</p> <p>5. Lorenz Klein (UZH)  Metabolism monitoring via breath acetone  → Project 8 (PhD student)  Supervisor: <u>Philipp Gerber</u> &amp; Annelies Zinkernagel UZH, Nikolaos Perakakis &amp; Hani Harb TUD;</p> <p>6. Rupali Mohanty (TUD)  Metabolic and immunologic influences of post-acute infection syndromes (PAISs)  → Project 9 (PhD student)  Supervisor: <u>Nicole Töpfner</u> &amp; Stefan Bornstein TUD; Milo Puhan &amp; Irene Alma Abela UZH</p> <p>7. Shadi Hambo (TUD)  Role of Treg cells senescence in Long COVID pathogenesis  → affiliated PhD student  Supervisor: <u>Hani Harb</u> TUD</p>
16:00-16:15	<b>Closing and Farewell for the IRTG PIs</b>
18:00 –22:00	<b>Students Night</b> 

**Wednesday, 07<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Departure of Zurich PI´s**

**Thursday, 08<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

08:30-09:00	<b>Arrival and pick-up of certificate of attendance</b>
09:00-16:00 	<p><b>Students workshop</b> <i>„From Planning to productivity“</i> (based on handbook „Travel guide to your PhD“)</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> Arjenne Louter (“The Dutch PhD coach”, communication scientist); Prof. Marjo Wijnen-Meijer Meijer ( Professor in Medical Education, Medical Faculty at Technische Universität Dresden)</p> <p><u>Workshop Outline</u> This workshop combines preparation, practical exercises, and direct feedback to help PhD candidates transform their planning into a workable strategy. Participants will prepare in advance by creating a plan based on method provided in the Travel Guide to your PhD they receive and submitting it before the workshop. During the session, they will actively work on improving and implementing their plans.</p> <p><u>Program</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Plenary discussion of homework – Analysis and feedback on submitted plans</li><li>2. Group exercise (groups of 3): Improving plans–Participants refine their plans in small groups</li><li>3. Break</li><li>4. Lecture: Turning a plan into action &amp; dealing with procrastination – Theoretical and practical insights</li><li>5. Lunch</li><li>6. Group exercise (groups of 3): Practical implementation – Applying concepts to personal work</li><li>7. Plenary feedback and additional tips – Reflection and optimization, including an ideal weekly schedule</li><li>8. Plenary closing and Q&amp;A</li></ol>

**Thursday, 08<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Departure of Zurich students**