

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANT POSITION

The **EB House Austria** is an EU Reference Center of Excellence for the rare genetic skin disease Epidermolysis bullosa (EB), affiliated with the University Hospital Salzburg and the Paracelsus Medical University. We consist of four units – an outpatient unit, academy, research unit, and clinical study center – and adopt a holistic approach to developing and delivering outstanding multi-disciplinary care to patients with EB.

The group of Drs. Josefina Piñon Hofbauer and Christina Guttmann-Gruber is looking for a **technical assistant** to support various research projects aimed at investigating the multi-step process of malignant transformation in EB. EB is a devastating disease characterised by skin fragility due to mutations in genes encoding structural proteins necessary for maintaining proper adherence of the different skin layers to each other. As a result, the skin is prone to blistering and wounding after minimal trauma or friction. In the most severe subtypes, patients are prone to the development of life-threatening cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma.

### Projects

Our overarching goal is the improvement of wound healing to enhance patients' quality of life, but also to reduce their risk of cancer development, which is intricately intertwined with chronic wounding and persistent inflammation in patients. As a primary interface to our surroundings, the skin is populated by a variety of host cells as well as an entire microbial ecosystem, both of which contribute to normal skin function as a barrier and immune organ. Our projects are aimed at profiling the events that take place when this homeostatic tissue environment is disrupted, including

- + Profiling of immune cells isolated from patient wound dressings as a non-invasive alternative to skin biopsies
- + Characterization of patient wound microbial isolates and their role in malignant transformation of keratinocytes
- + Development of immune-therapeutic approaches against EB-associated cancer

### Candidate

The ideal candidate should be highly motivated, reliable, flexible, able to work both independently and as part of a team, and have strong time-management and

communication skills. They should be interested in the scientific background of the group's projects, have the ability to learn new techniques/assays, and be able to work precisely and document experiments properly. Other qualifications include:

- + BSc or MSc in molecular or cell biology, genetics, biotechnology or similar
- + Technical/laboratory experience:
  - o PCR, cloning, immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry, western blotting, flow cytometry, microscopy
  - o cell culture (cultivation of different cell types)
  - o experience with, or willingness to work with, mouse models (optimal: FELASA certificate or equivalent)
- + Data analyses
- + Working knowledge of written and spoken scientific English

### Position

Full-time (40 hours/week) TA position for 1 year, with the potential to extend contract with the acquisition of additional 3<sup>rd</sup>-party funding. Minimum salary according to FWF personnel cost unit rate: 2.609,90 € brutto/month.

### Application

Please send your application (CV, motivation letter, and contact info of 3 references) to: **Dr. Christina Guttmann-Gruber**, [c.gruber@salk.at](mailto:c.gruber@salk.at).