

## **ITCC Clinical Fellowship Training at Hopp Children's Cancer Center in Heidelberg**

The „**Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg**” (KITZ) is a joint institution of the Heidelberg University Hospital and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). As a therapy and research center for oncologic and hematologic diseases in children and adolescents, the KITZ is committed to scientifically exploring the biology of childhood cancer and to closely linking promising research approaches with patient care– from diagnosis to treatment and aftercare. Many patients can participate in clinical trials which ensures access to new therapy options. The KITZ is a pioneering institution for transferring research knowledge from the laboratory to the clinic in Germany.

Drug development fellows optionally rotate in the INFORM team where they participate in data interpretation, reporting and clinical management. By doing this, they are in direct interaction with biologists, bioinformaticians, pharmacologists, human geneticists, and pathologists on a daily basis. They are responsible for the direct interpretation and translation of INFORM molecular results into treatment and trials.

The INFORM team is integrated in the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ, the largest biomedical institute in Germany) and as such, the fellow has direct access to preclinical data and experiments, more specifically within the Division of Pediatric Neurooncology (Stefan Pfister) and the Clinical Cooperation Unit Pediatric Oncology (Olaf Witt). More information can be found at [Hopp-Kindertumorzentrum Heidelberg](http://Hopp-Kindertumorzentrum Heidelberg) and [www.itccp4.eu](http://www.itccp4.eu)

Furthermore, Drug development fellows have the opportunity to work with our dedicated teams on a) the development of investigator-initiated early clinical trials (Trial Development Group) b) the lead and coordination of these (Trial Management Group) and c) the conduction of early phase industry sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials (Clinical Trial Unit). All Groups are multidisciplinary teams of specialized physicians with experience in early phase pediatric trial protocol development and trial managers, working in close cooperation with the Department of Biostatistics of the DKFZ. The Trial Development Group develops innovative international study

protocols whereas the Trial Management Group runs and coordinates its own phase I-III academic studies with sites in Germany, Europe and global partner sites in Australia, US and Canada. The main focus is on biomarker driven basket trials and targeted/immune therapies using new drugs and rational drug combinations.

Moreover, the fellow will have the opportunity for a traineeship at the Clinical Research Unit (KliPS) of Heidelberg University Hospital to also gain insights in adult early phase trials. KliPS is specialized in planning and conducting clinical trials of early phases 0 and I including first-in-human trials. With its specialized infrastructure, the legal, ethical, and technical framework reproducible data of highest quality are generated and the safety of the study participants in strict accordance with all ethical and legal conditions is ensured. KliPS plays an important role in transferring new substances from the pharmaceutical industry and also from academic sites resulting from translational research into clinical phases efficiently and safely.

A GCP investigator course is obligatory for all physicians in our unit and should be absolved within the first 2 months. In addition, drug development fellows can opt to follow the curriculum clinical research, or parts of it (Courses are only available in German language) and participate in courses of the International PhD Program DKFZ and the DKFZ Postdoc Program or the course Major Cancer Biology within the International Master Program 'Molecular Biosciences' at the Faculty of Biosciences at Heidelberg University and DKFZ.