

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

LSC 3 | 12:00 - 1:00PM



Dr. Karin Hoffmeister

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“Hematopoiesis: The need of glycans to control a complex system”

Dr. Karin Hoffmeister is a Senior Investigator at Blood Research Institute, BloodCenter of Wisconsin, United States of America. She earned her M.D. at the Technical University, Aachen, Germany and worked as a clinical cardiologist at the University Hospital in Aachen for 5 years. After finishing her fellowship in cardiology, she decided to pursue a career as a principal investigator in platelet biology and moved to Harvard Medical School in Boston. Here she developed a deep interest in hematopoiesis and glycobiology and has been awarded the prestigious PEW scholarship in platelet glycobiology, which is awarded to a handful of the most promising young scientists in America and the Program of Excellence in Glycobiology and Hematology. She published in multiple prestigious journals such as Cell, Science and Nature and Blood. Her most recent findings unraveled a long-standing mystery of thrombopoietin regulation by hepatocytes. The results demonstrated that aged platelets bind to the hepatocyte specific Ashwell Morell receptor to increase thrombopoietin and platelet production. These results were published in Nature Medicine. Her unpublished data suggest a novel existence of continuous communication between platelets and liver cells, beyond thrombopoietin. She collaborates with hematologists and glycobiologists world-wide to understand the role of glycans in hematopoiesis. Currently she is developing a program which investigates hematopoietic and immunologic disorders and transplantation medicine in context with systems glycobiology.

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