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RESEARCH FOCUS

- Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

PROF. DR. THOMAS PIETSCHMANN

DIRECTOR of the INSTITUTE for EXPERIMENTAL VIROLOGY
TWINCORE



EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- **Current position - Since 2012:** W3 Professorship at Experimental Virology at the MHH and Director of the Institute for Experimental Virology, TWINCORE
- **2007-2012** – W2 Professorship at Experimental Virology at MHH and Head of the Department for Experimental Virology, TWINCORE
- **2006-2007** – Emmy Noether-Research group leader at the Department of Molecular Virology, University of Heidelberg
- **2002-2006** – Postdoctoral fellow, University of Heidelberg - Prof. Dr. Ralf Bartenschlager
- **2000-2002** – Postdoctoral fellow, University of Mainz - Prof. Dr. Ralf Bartenschlager
- **1997-2000** – Doctoral studies (Dr. rer. nat) at the Institute for Virology of the University of Würzburg



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **2012-2017** – ERC starting grant “VIRAFRONT”(consolidator trunk, European Research Council)
- **2005** – Pettenkofer Award of the Pettenkofer Foundation, Munich
- **2005** – Robert Koch Postdoc Prize in Virology, Robert Koch Foundation

other ROLES and MEMBERSHIPS:

- **Since 2023** – Member of the DZIF Executive Board
- **Since 2021** – HZI spokesperson - Helmholtz "Infection Research" program
- **2020-2024** – Deputy spokesperson – DFG Review Board FK 204 (Microbiology, Virology and Immunology)
- **Since 2019-2023** DZIF Partner Site Speaker Hanover-Brunswick
- **Since 2019-2023** Member of the DZIF Internal Advisory Board
- **2018-2022** – Speaker - Junior Academy of the German Society of Virology
- **Since 2014** – Member - Advisory Board of the German Society of Virology



IMPORTANT COLLABORATIONS

- Thomas Krey (Lübeck) – HCV vaccine research and development (shared DFG grants)
- Alexander Ploss (Princeton) – HCV tropism and animal model (shared NIH grant)
- Ethris GmbH (München) – Development of an mRNA-based HCV vaccine candidate
- ENYO Pharma SA (Lyon) – Development of RSV targeting antivirals



MOST IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS

- Sheldon J, Winkler M, Yuan Q, Frericks N, Brown R, Miskey C, Gödecke N, Behme S, Rox K, Mysegades G, Vondran F, Wirth D, Pietschmann T. **Adapted hepatitis C virus clone infects innate immunity deficient mouse hepatocytes with minimal human HCV entry factors**, JHEP Reports.2025,101328, ISSN 2589-5559, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhepr.2025.101328>.
- Weber T, Potthoff J, Bizu S, Labuhn M, Dold L, Schoofs T, Horning M, Ercanoglu MS, Kreer C, Gieselmann L, Vanshylla K, Langhans B, Janicki H, Ströh LJ, Knops E, Nierhoff D, Spengler U, Kaiser R, Bjorkman PJ, Krey T, Bankwitz D, Pfeifer N, Pietschmann T, Flyak AI, Klein F. **Analysis of antibodies from HCV elite neutralizers identifies genetic determinants of broad neutralization**. Immunity. 2022 Feb 8;55(2):341-354.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2021.12.003. Epub 2022 Jan 5. PMID: 34990590; PMCID: PMC10089621.
- Bankwitz D, Bahai A, Labuhn M, Doepke M, Ginkel C, Khera T, Todt D, Ströh LJ, Dold L, Klein F, Klawonn F, Krey T, Behrendt P, Cornberg M, McHardy AC, Pietschmann T. **Hepatitis C reference viruses highlight potent antibody responses and diverse viral functional interactions with neutralising antibodies**. Gut. 2021 Sep;70(9):1734-1745. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2020-321190. Epub 2020 Dec 15. PMID: 33323394; PMCID: PMC8355883.
- Steinmann E, Doerrbecker J, Friesland M, Riebesehl N, Ginkel C, Hillung J, Gentsch J, Lauber C, Brown R, Frentzen A, Pietschmann T. **Characterization of hepatitis C virus intra- and intergenotypic chimeras reveals a role of the glycoproteins in virus envelopment**. J Virol. 2013 Dec;87(24):13297-306. doi: 10.1128/JVI.01708-13. Epub 2013 Oct 2. PMID: 24089562; PMCID: PMC3838269.
- Wakita T, Pietschmann T, Kato T, Date T, Miyamoto M, Zhao Z, Murthy K, Habermann A, Kräusslich HG, Mizokami M, Bartenschlager R, Liang TJ. **Production of infectious hepatitis C virus in tissue culture from a cloned viral genome**. Nat Med. 2005 Jul;11(7):791-6. doi: 10.1038/nm1268. Epub 2005 Jun 12. Erratum in: Nat Med. 2005 Aug;11(8):905. PMID: 15951748; PMCID: PMC2918402.