

Curriculum Vitae

Christina Malainou PhD
d.o.b. May 6th, 1989, in Amarousio, Attika, Greece

University Education

2023 PhD, Justus Liebig University of Giessen
2007-2013 Studies of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Scientific Career

Since 2026 Principal Investigator German Center for Lung Research (DZL)
Since 2024 Hessen Lung Academy (HLA) co-chairperson
Since 2023 Elected member of the Directory of the Center of Internal Medicine, University Clinic Giessen
Since 2023 DZL Disease Area Pneumonia and Acute Lung Injury (PALI) Fellow Coordinator
2019-2024 University of Giessen and Marburg Lung Center (UGMLC) fellow representative in the DZL Academy Board

Awards and Honors

2026 German Respiratory Society (DGP) Research Prize
2023 German Infectious Diseases Society (DGI) Award for best scientific presentation
2022 Poster award at the 3rd International Conference of the SFB-TR84 Research Network
2019 Poster award at the 8th DZL Annual Meeting
2018 Travel grant from the ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis
2017 DGP Award, Sections of Cell Biology and Infectiology and Tuberculosis of the German Society
2017 MBML travel grant
2016 MBML travel grant
2016 MBML travel grant
2013 Scholarship upon completion of Medicine studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Citation Record

Total citations: 314; h-index:5; h-index since 2016: 5 (Google Scholar February 24th, 2026)

Top-10 selected Publications

Malainou C, Peteranderl C, Ferrero MR, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Alexopoulos I, Franz K, Knippenberg K, Better J, Estiri M, Wu CY, Schultheis H, Bushe J, del Rio ML, Rodriguez-Barbosa JI, Pfeffer K, Günther S, Looso M, Gruber AD, Vadász I, Matt U, Herold S. TNF Superfamily Member 14 Drives Post-Influenza Depletion of Alveolar Macrophages Enabling Secondary Pneumococcal Pneumonia, *J Clin Invest*. 2025 Nov 18:e185390. doi: [10.1172/JCI185390](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI185390).

Better J, Estiri M, Wetstein M, Pervizaj-Oruqaj L, **Malainou C**, Ogungbemi-Alt V, Ferrero MR, Langelage M, Kuznetsova I, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Kimmig L, Pak O, Mansouri S, Savai R, Wilhelm J, Alexopoulos I, Sommer N, Herold S, Matt U. Cell type-specific efferocytosis determines functional plasticity of alveolar macrophages. *Sci Immunol*. 2025 May 2;10(107):eadl3852. doi: [10.1126/sciimmunol.adl3852](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciimmunol.adl3852).

Sul C, Nozik E, **Malainou C**. A Tale of Two Cytokines: IL-10 Blocks IFN- γ in Influenza A Virus-Staphylococcus aureus Coinfection. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol*. 2024 Jul;71(1):18-20. doi: [10.1165/rcmb.2024-0154ED](https://doi.org/10.1165/rcmb.2024-0154ED).

Pervizaj-Oruqaj L, Selvakumar B, Ferrero MR, Heiner M, **Malainou C**, Glaser RD, Wilhelm J, Bartkuhn M, Weiss A, Alexopoulos I, Witte B, Gattenlöhner S, Vadász I, Morty RE, Seeger W, Schermuly RT, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Herold S. Alveolar macrophage-expressed Plet1 is a driver of lung epithelial repair after viral pneumonia. *Nat Commun.* 2024 Jan 2;15(1):87. doi: [10.1038/s41467-023-44421-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-44421-6).

Malainou C, Abdin SM, Lachmann N, Matt U, Herold S. Alveolar macrophages in tissue homeostasis, inflammation, and infection: evolving concepts of therapeutic targeting. *J Clin Invest.* 2023 Oct 2;133(19):e170501. doi: [10.1172/JCI170501](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI170501).

Alberro-Brage A, Kryvenko V, **Malainou C**, Günther S, Morty RE, Seeger W, Herold S, Samakovlis C, Vadász I. Influenza virus decreases albumin uptake and megalin expression in alveolar epithelial cells. *Front Immunol.* 2023 Sep 1;14:1260973. doi: [10.3389/fimmu.2023.1260973](https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1260973).

Langelage M, Better J, Wetstein M, Selvakumar B, **Malainou C**, Kimmig L, Arneth B, Köhler K, Herden C, Herold S, Matt U. Acid aspiration impairs antibacterial properties of liver macrophages. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol.* 2021 May;64(5):641-643. doi: [10.1165/rcmb.2020-0575LE](https://doi.org/10.1165/rcmb.2020-0575LE).

Malainou C, Herold S. Influenza. *Der Internist.* 2019 Nov; 60(11):1127-1135. Article in German. Current name: Die Innere Medizin. doi: [10.1007/s00108-019-00670-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00108-019-00670-6).

Kalymbetova T, Selvakumar B, Rodríguez-Castillo JA, Gunjak M, **Malainou C**, Heindl MR, Moiseenko A, Chao CM, Vadász I, Mayer K, Bellusci S, Böttcher-Friebertshäuser E, Seeger W, Herold S, Morty R. Resident alveolar macrophages are master regulators of arrested alveolarization in experimental bronchopulmonary dysplasia. *J Pathol.* 2018 Jun; 245(2):153-159. doi: [10.1002/path.5076](https://doi.org/10.1002/path.5076).