Curriculum Vitae

Bastian Opitz Professor, Dr. med.
d.o.b. February 13th, 1976, in Berlin, Germany

University Education

2009	Habilitation Experimental Medicine, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
2003	Doctorate Medicine, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin (*summa cum laude*)
1995–2002	Studies of Medicine, Humboldt-University, Berlin

Scientific Career

Since 2025	Professor of Infection Immunology (W3, tenured), Charité
Since 2024	Elected Deputy Speaker of the study group "Infection Immunology" of the German Society of Immunology (DGfI) and the German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
Since 2023	Faculty, MD/PhD Graduate Program "Re-Thinking Health", Charité, Berlin, Germany
2020-2022	PI, BMBF-funded research network MAPVAP
Since 2018	Editorial Board member - *Med Microbiol Immunol.*
Since 2014	Editorial Board member - *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol.*
2010-2023	PI, collaborative research center / transregio (SFB-TR84), since 2018 member of the executive board
2015-2019	PI, DFG-funded priority program (SPP1580)
2010-2015	PI, DFG-funded international graduate school GRK1673
2010-2015	Training in Medical Microbiology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Labor Berlin, Board Certificate "Medical Microbiology, Virology and Infection epidemiology"
2010-2025	Professor of Lung Infections and Immunology (W2, tenured), Charité
Since 2009	Faculty, PhD Program "Interdisciplinary Center of Infection Biology and Immunity" (ZIBI), Charité, Berlin, Germany
Since 2008	PI of various individual DFG research grants ("Sachbeihilfen"): OP 86/17-1, OP86/13-1, OP86/12-1, OP86/7-2, OP86/7-1, OP86/5-1
2008	Visiting scientist, Yale University School of Medicine, Section of Microbial Pathogenesis, Prof. Craig Roy; funded by the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation
Since 2006	Scientific Group Leader at the Department of Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases and Pulmonary Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
2004-2006	Postdoc at the Department of Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases and Pulmonary Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
2003–2004	„Arzt im Praktikum, Department of Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases and Pulmonary Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Awards and Stipends

2024	Paper of the Month", German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
2018	Wolfgang-Stille prize of the Paul-Ehrlich-Society (PEG)
2016	"Paper of the Month", German Society of Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
2009	Fritz-und-Ursula-Melchers prize of the German Society of Immunology (DGfI)
2008	Stipend by the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation
2006	Research stipend, German Respiratory Society (DGP)

Citation Record

Total citations: 6,193; *h-index: 43* (Web of Science February 2nd, 2026)

Top-10 selected Publications

Fiocca Vernengo F, Röwekamp I, Boillot L, Caesar S, Dörner PJ, Tarnowski B, Gutbier B, Nouailles G, Fatykhova D, Hellwig K, Witzenrath M, Hocke AC, Klatt AB, **Opitz B**. Diabetes impairs IFNγ-dependent antibacterial defense in the lungs. **Mucosal Immunol**. 2025 Apr;18(2):431-440.

Essex M*, Millet Pascual-Leone B*, Löber U, Kuhring M, Zhang B, Brüning U, Fritsche-Guenther R, Krzanowski M, Fiocca Vernengo F, Brumhard S, Röwekamp I, Anna Bielecka A, Lesker TR, Wyler E, Landthaler M, Mantei A, Meisel C, Caesar S, Thibeault C, Corman VM, Marko L, Suttorp N, Strowig T, Kurth F, Sander LE, Li Y, Kirwan JA*, Forslund SK*, **Opitz B***. Gut microbiota dysbiosis is associated with altered tryptophan metabolism and dysregulated inflammatory response in severe COVID-19. **npj Biofilms and Microbioms**. 2024;10(1):66.

Röwekamp I*, Maschirow L*, Rabes A*, Fiocca Vernengo F, Hamann L, Heinz GA, Mashreghi MF, Caesar S, Milek M, Fagundes Fonseca AC, Wienhold SM, Nouailles G, Yao L, Mousavi S, Bruder D, Boehme JD, Puzianowska-Kuznicka M, Beule D, Witzenrath M; CAPNETZ Study Group; Löhning M, Klose CSN, Heimesaat MM, Diefenbach A, **Opitz B**. IL-33 controls IL-22-dependent antibacterial defense by modulating the microbiota. **Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A**. 2024; 121(22):e2310864121.

Dörner PJ, Anandakumar H, Röwekamp I, Fiocca Vernengo F, Millet Pascual-Leone B, Krzanowski M, Sellmaier J, Brüning U, Fritsche-Guenther R, Pfannkuch L, Kurth F, Milek M, Igbokwe V, Löber U, Gutbier B, Holstein M, Heinz GA, Mashreghi MF, Schulte LN, Klatt AB, Caesar S, Wienhold SM, Offermanns S, Mack M, Witzenrath M, Jordan S, Beule D, Kirwan JA, Forslund SK, Wilck N, Bartolomaeus H, Heimesaat MM, **Opitz B**. Clinically used broad-spectrum antibiotics compromise inflammatory monocyte-dependent antibacterial defense in the lung. **Nat Commun**. 2024; 15(1):2788.

Thibeault C, Suttorp N, **Opitz B**. The microbiota in pneumonia: from protection to predisposition. **Sci Transl Med**. 2021;13

Robak O, Heimesaat MM, Kruglov A, Prepens S, Gutbier B, Reppe K, Hochrein H, Suter M, Kirschning CJ, Schneider P, Witzenrath M, Bereswill S, Steinhoff U, Suttorp N, Sander LE, Chaput C*, **Opitz B***. Antibiotic treatment-induced secondary IgA-deficiency enhances susceptibility to Pseudomonas aeruginosa pneumonia. **J Clin Invest**. 2018;28:3535-3545.

Ruiz-Moreno JS, Hamann L, Shah JA, Verbon A, Mockenhaupt FP, Puzianowska-Kuznicka M, Naujoks J, Sander LE, Witzenrath M, Cambier JC, Suttorp N, Schumann RR, Jin L, Hawn TR, **Opitz B**, CAPNETZ Study Group. A common hypomorphic STING variant affects cGAS-dependent antibacterial defense and is associated with susceptibility to Legionnaires' disease in humans. **PLOS Pathogens**. 2018;14:e1006829.

Naujoks N, Tabeling C, Dill BD, Hoffmann C, Brown AS, Kunze M, Kempa S, Peter A, Mollenkopf HJ, Dorhoi A, Kershaw O, Gruber AD, Sander LE, Witzenrath M, Herold S, Nehrlich A, Hocke AC, van Driel I, Suttorp N, Bedoui B, Hilbi H, Trost M, **Opitz B**. IFNs modify the proteome of Legionella-containing vacuoles and restrict infection via IRG1-derived itaconic acid. **PLoS Pathogens**. 2016;12:e1005408.

Opitz B, van Laak V, Eitel J, Suttorp N. Innate immune recognition in infectious and non-infectious diseases of the lung. **Am J Respir Crit Care Med**. 2010;181:1294-309.

Opitz B, Förster S, Hocke AC, Maass M, Schmeck B, Hippenstiel S, Suttorp N, Krüll M. Nod1 mediated endothelial cell activation by C. pneumoniae. **Circ. Res**. 2005;96:319-26.