

Press Release
August 9, 2018

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow at FLI

Ukrainian cell biologist Dr. Yuliya Kurlishchuk has received a research fellowship for postdocs from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. With this funding, she is now a guest at the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena for the next two years. She is going to investigate the regenerative capacity of cells in the research group “Transcriptional Control of Tissue Homeostasis” of Dr. Björn von Eyss.

Jena. Since July 2018, the Ukrainian junior scientist Dr. Yuliya Kurlishchuk has been a guest at the Leibniz Institute on Aging - Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena. Her two-year stay is made possible by a research fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The cell biologist works in the Dr. Björn von Eyss group "Transcriptional Control of Tissue Homeostasis" to investigate the regenerative capacity of cells.

About the Research Fellow

Dr. Yuliya Kurlishchuk studied biology at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv in Ukraine. She then worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Cell Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and received her doctorate in February 2017 with a thesis in the field of cell biology on colorectal cancer cell response to metabolic anticancer treatment.

“A few years ago I already stayed in Germany, as I worked as a doctoral student in the field of cancer research at the OncoRay Center, TU Dresden for ten months”, says Dr. Kurlishchuk. “Now I am looking forward to my two-year stay at the FLI in Jena and feel excited about it. The first thing that caught my eye here at the institute was the great state-of-the-art equipment in the laboratories, which offer many research opportunities.”

Her stay at the FLI in the group of Dr. Björn von Eyss enables the young scientist to carry on her own research topic in an international research environment. Over the next two years, the biologist wants to focus on YAP signaling in stem cell-like properties of human cells, a research field that is also of high interest in aging research, as stem cells play an important role in tissue regeneration. "I am pleased to be able to contribute to this important field of research with my work at FLI", Dr. Kurlishchuk emphasizes her motivation.

In preparation for her stay in Germany, the Ukrainian researcher has already attended a four-month language course that was kindly provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. To further improve her language skills at the FLI, she takes part in the institute's German course. All scientists of the FLI benefit from this cooperation: “I am particularly looking forward to the scientific exchange with Dr. Kurlishchuk and the international networking that will result from her stay in our group in the future”, says Dr. Björn von Eyss, junior group leader at FLI. As host, he takes care of the scientific supervision of the postdoc during her stay at the institute. The Humboldt research fellow is able to take part in various events organized by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to establish contacts with other research fellows in order to build up her own network.

About the Fellowship

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a non-profit foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany for the promotion of international cooperation in research. It fosters international academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and from abroad and supports the resulting scientific and cultural connections.

In providing Humboldt Research Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers, the foundation enables highly-qualified junior scientists from abroad, who are just embarking on their academic careers, to spend extended periods of research in Germany. In cooperation with hosts of German research institutions, research fellows can work on independent research projects.

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Picture



Picture 1:

Humboldt Research Fellow Dr. Yuliya Kurlishchuk is investigating the regenerative capacity of cells at the Leibniz Institute on Aging for the next two years. (Source: private / Anna Girol)

Background information

The **Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI)** – upon its inauguration in 2004 – was the first German research organization dedicated to research on the process of aging. More than 330 employees from over 30 nations



explore the molecular mechanisms underlying aging processes and age-associated diseases. For more information, please visit www.leibniz-fli.de.

The **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation** promotes academic collaboration between excellent international and German researchers. Therefore, it sponsors approximately 2,000 research stays at German universities and research institutions. The foundation has a network of more than 28,000 Humboldtians from all disciplines and more than 140 nations (www.humboldt-foundation.de).

The **Leibniz Association** connects 93 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz Institutes collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of “WissenschaftsCampi” (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the institutes’ importance for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 19,100 individuals, including 9,900 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.9 billion EUR. See www.leibniz-association.eu for more information.