

Dr. rer. nat. Katharina Birkner

Scientific Profile:

I am in my first year as a postdoc in the group of Prof. Frauke Zipp and Prof. Stefan Bittner at the University Medical Center Mainz. I also performed my thesis in this group.

My current scientific aim is to elucidate the impact of Th17 cell-associated effector mechanisms and the crosstalk between T cells and neurons in the course of autoimmune neuroinflammation.

My skills include in vivo two-photon imaging and optogenetics, while my core expertise is all about the T cell culture. Furthermore, immunological assays as well as EAE are part of my every day work.

Personal Profile:

I was born in Frankfurt and spent part of my childhood in South Carolina, USA; therefore, I speak English... rather than French ;-)

Expertise in the Bittner/Zipp Lab:

- In vitro 2PM microscopy on brain slices and diverse cell cultures (all kind of immune cells)
- In vivo 2PM microscopy in the brainstem
- Ca²⁺ imaging
- Flow-cytometry
- Western blotting, immunoprecipitation, Real time q-PCR
- Immunohistochemistry
- Animal models: active EAE, passive EAE