

ESP Advanced training centre for Nephropathology (Erlangen, Germany)

University Hospital Erlangen

Dept. of Nephropathology Institute of Pathology

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Prof. Dr. Kerstin Amann (head of the department of nephropathology)

PD Dr. Maike Büttner (head of training program in nephropathology)

Since work-up of kidney biopsies requires a specific technical work-up (light microscopy, immunofluorescence or immunohistochemistry, electron microscopy) that is not available at many institutes as well as a deep knowledge of renal pathology and nephrology many renal biopsies in Europe, particularly native kidney biopsies, but also transplant biopsies, are processed, and signed out by specialists or a few specialized centres, respectively.

The Department of Nephropathology at the Institute of Pathology at the University Hospital Erlangen has a long track record in the field and is very active in training renal pathologists as well as in organizing continuing medical education in Nephropathology (e.g., Nephropathology working group of the ESP, Nephropathology course Mannheim, hands-on courses in both native and transplant kidney biopsies). We read kidney biopsies for more than 15 years now and actually sign out approximately 3700 renal biopsies per year (around two thirds are from native kidneys) including more than 2000 electron microscopical investigations. All necessary techniques are established at the Department of Nephropathology or the Institute of Pathology with which we have a close collaboration. We also have a very close collaboration with our clinical colleagues with a regular clinicopathological conference once per week and also scientific collaborations within the field of basic and clinical research in nephrology.

Our Department will offer 3 months modules (basic and advanced) which will be based on the daily routine as well as consultation cases and cases from the huge archive. Teaching languages are German or English, so that a good knowledge in either of the two languages is a prerequisite. Training periods can start at the beginning of every month as arranged with the fellow. We will be able to offer a maximum of 2 positions per year.

Erlangen is located in the southeast of Germany relatively close to the Czech border. It is a city with about 100,000 inhabitants and very short distances. The campus of the Medical Faculty is right in the city centre very close to the local railway station (approx. 5 min by foot). The larger city of Nürnberg (approx. 500,000 inhabitants) with its national and international (some European destinations) airport is very close (20 km). The University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, the University Hospital of Erlangen and the Institute of Pathology support international visitors in all aspects of their visits. Kerstin Amann is an internationally recognized nephropathologist who trained with Prof. Jan Weening (University Medical Centre Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Prof. Rüdiger Waldherr (University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany). She is currently vice president of the German Society of Nephrology. Her research interests comprise prenatal programming of kidney disease, hypertensive nephropathy, podocyte pathophysiology and mechanisms of immune-mediated kidney diseases. Maike Büttner who trained with Kerstin Amann is also a well-known expert in the field of Nephropathology. She is actively involved in the daily diagnostic of kidney biopsies, teaching and research in Nephropathology. Her research interests include drug-induced kidney damage, kidney damage in hematopoietic diseases and complement-mediated diseases of the kidney.

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