

ESP Advanced Training Centre for Nephropathology
Basel, Switzerland

University Hospital Basel
Institute of Pathology
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Prof. Dr. Markus Tolnay (head of the institute)
PD Dr. Helmut Hopfer (head of training program in nephropathology)

Many renal biopsies in Europe, both native kidney and kidney transplants, are processed and signed out by specialists as they require a technical work-up (light microscopy, immunofluorescence or immunohistochemistry, electron microscopy) not available at many institutes and a deep knowledge of renal pathology. In many European countries, there is an obvious need for more pathologists familiar with nephropathology.

The Institute of Pathology at the University Hospital Basel 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, Basel Seminars in Pathology: Renal Transplant Pathology, Hands-on Courses). We sign out approximately 750 renal biopsies per year (around two thirds are from native kidneys). All necessary techniques are established at the Institute. We have a close collaboration with our clinical colleagues with regular clinicopathological conferences.

Our Institute will offer 3 months modules (basic, advanced, electron microscopy) which will be based on the daily routine as well as consultation cases and cases from the archive. Teaching languages are German or English, 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 two positions per year.

Basel is located in the northwest of Switzerland at the border to both France and Germany. It is a city with short distances and a highly developed public transportation system including an airport. The University Hospital Basel and the Institute of Pathology supports international visitors in all aspects of their visits.

Helmut Hopfer is an internationally recognized nephropathologist who trained with Prof. Udo Helmchen (University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany) and Prof. Michael J. Mihatsch (University Hospital Basel). He is currently the Co-Chair of the Nephropathology Working Group of the ESP. His main research interests are mechanisms of immune-mediated kidney diseases.

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