

UMO Connect – Early Career Research Pitches

24.09.2026, 4.00 - 5.30 p.m., “Interkultureller Treff” in the SSC
(Building A12) at Campus Haarentor

Johanna Buhre, PhD student at the University Clinic for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine

Title: Measurement of the cerebral oxygenation and the reaction of the autonomous nervous system after olfactory stimulation in preterm neonates

Description: This project focuses on measuring the cerebral and autonomous reaction of sleeping preterm neonates to certain milk odours. By using functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and the electrocardiogram (ECG), the cerebral oxygenation within the brain and the autonomous reaction of the nervous system are recorded. The aim is to gain a better understanding of the physiological perception of odours in preterm neonates to improve their environment within the hospital/NICU.

Lena Kayser, PhD student at the University Clinic of Otolaryngology

Title: Effects of contralateral acoustic stimulation on ipsilateral cochlear microphonics

Description: This experimental study in audiology /otolaryngology investigates the effect of contralateral acoustic stimulation on cochlear microphonics (CMs). CMs are electrical field potentials that replicate sound pressure waves and thereby represent the given acoustic stimulus. CM amplitudes are compared between ipsilateral and bilateral oneburst stimulation conditions to determine whether bilateral stimulation alters the CM amplitude and whether the type of stimulation influences the response.

Dr. Volker Kinast, Postdoctoral researcher at the University Institute for Medical Microbiology and Virology

Title: Characterizing restriction factors of intracellular pathogens

Description: We are investigating how the interferon system and its downstream effectors protect cells from infection and genomic instability. Our research aims to identify interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs) that restrict various intracellular pathogens and to define the molecular mechanisms underlying their antiviral and antibacterial activity.

Dr. Anja Lindig, Postdoctoral researcher at the Division for Psychological Methods and Statistics, Department for Psychology

Title: Women at the Centre: Decision-Making Research in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Description: Pregnancy and childbirth are particularly vulnerable periods in the life course. Integrating women's preferences, values, and individual life circumstances into decision-making processes - for example, in the context of abortion care, prenatal diagnosis, alcohol screening during pregnancy, or mode of birth - remains underrepresented in research and practice.

Drawing on a collage of my past and current projects, I will illustrate why person-centred communication and shared decision-making are key elements of women's healthcare.

Ejona Nela, PhD student at the University Clinic for Internal Medicine - Cardiology

Title: Does TAVI affect Coronary Blood Flow?

Description: TAVI is used to treat severe aortic stenosis, but does replacing the aortic valve affect blood flow in the coronary arteries? In my research, I use quantitative Flow Ratio (qFR) to compare coronary blood flow before and after TAVI and see whether there are any changes.

Wenke Reents, PhD student at the Division for Psychological Methods and Statistics, Department for Psychology

Title: Psychological Parameters in Individuals with a Positive HPV Test and Normal Cytology (PAP I oder IIa) Compared to individuals with a Negative or Unknown HPV Status (HAPPI Study)

Description: The *HAPPI (HPV And Psychological Parameters Investigation)* study focuses on investigating psychological parameters in individuals who test positive for human papillomavirus (HPV) but show no cytological abnormalities. Using a cross-sectional, quantitative survey study, we assess psychological parameters (e.g. cervical dysplasia associated distress, anxiety and depressive symptoms), as well as knowledge and understanding of test results and diagnostic procedures, support needs and subjective awareness of the test results. Findings are compared with those of individuals with a negative or unknown HPV status.

Evgenii Shvedovskii, PhD student at the University Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy

Title: CARE: Cannabis Abstinence & Recovery Evaluation Project

Description: The CARE project investigates how cognitive functioning changes during six weeks of cannabis abstinence in young adult cannabis users aged 20–29. By comparing individuals who abstain from cannabis with those who continue their regular use and with non-using controls, we aim to track the recovery of cognitive functions, particularly episodic memory and interference control, and to better understand when and to what extent cannabis-related cognitive effects may be reversible.