

## **Bonn and Melbourne Academy for Excellence in Immunosciences (BM-AXIS)**

### **A joint research and teaching program between the University of Melbourne and the University of Bonn**

#### ***What is the BM-AXIS program?***

The Bonn and Melbourne Academy for Excellence in Immunosciences (BM-AXIS) is a program for exchange of scientists between the University of Melbourne and Bonn respectively. Academic professionals including postdoctoral researchers, research fellows and professors have the opportunity to spend up to three months at either location to conduct scientific research, as well as to contribute in teaching activities for higher education students.

#### ***Who is involved?***

The immunology program at the University of Bonn is one of the strongest in Germany. Bonn is supported by the German Research Council (DFG) in Excellence Initiative, as one of a handful of sites throughout Germany. BM-AXIS is led by Prof Christian Kurts (Medical & Experimental Immunology) and Prof Robert Finger (Ophthalmology) on the German side. In Melbourne, the program is led by A/Prof Sammy Bedoui at Melbourne University. Academics from both Universities are invited to participate in BM-AXIS.

#### ***What are the objectives?***

The University of Bonn and Melbourne already have an excellent relationship, which is perhaps best reflected in the joint international PhD program „Bonn & Melbourne Research and Graduate School” (Bo&MeRanG). BM-AXIS extends this partnership beyond PhD students offering opportunities for exchange of academics at all levels of their career. This will strengthen existing collaborations in immunology and offers opportunities to integrate additional clinical and epidemiological immunology-related projects. BM-AXIS will contribute to a sustainable, bilateral relationship in teaching- and research and enhance the international position of both Universities within medical research.

#### ***What activities do we anticipate over the coming year?***

BM-AXIS is seeking participants who are interested in establishing new collaborations. Funding for up to 28 exchanges of German academic staff has been granted, with visiting scientists expected to spend up to three months in Melbourne in research-related activities and/or present scientific workshops, seminars and tutorials for graduate students. Some Melbourne-based researchers will also become guest professors in Bonn and contribute to specific teaching activities in Bonn.