

IVANA RADOSAVLJEVIĆ

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My research interest is how the tumor microenvironment drives CAR-T cell exhaustion, and how engineered resistance to this suppression can be built into next-generation cellular therapeutics. I approach this from my clinical background in manufacturing and releasing autologous CAR-T products for heavily pre-treated, biologically heterogeneous patients, where I have seen firsthand how variable TME conditions and patient-specific factors shape therapeutic outcome. I bring expertise in multi-platform flow cytometry, T cell exhaustion phenotyping, molecular biology, imaging, and scRNA-seq in R.

EDUCATION

MSc in Cardiovascular Science, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

10/2020 – 09/2022

GPA 1.9 · DAAD Scholar

BSc in Biology and Biotechnology, University of Montenegro

09/2011 – 07/2015

GPA 1.4 · First Class Honours

RESEARCH INTERSHIPS

Institut für Allgemeine Physiologie, Universität Ulm (AG Frick)

07/2023 – 07/2024

- Established primary airway epithelial models (ALI-culture) and applied siRNA-based gene perturbation

Deutsches Primatenzentrum, Göttingen - Master's Thesis (AG Hinkel)

03/2022 – 09/2022

- Established *ex vivo* aortic explant angiogenesis models and engineered optogenetic constructs for ECs

Klinik für Kardiologie und Pneumologie, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen (AG Toischer)

12/2021 – 03/2022

- Quantified cardiomyocyte hypertrophy by immunofluorescence in human iPSC-CMs transfected with native and m6A-modified microRNAs

Klinik für Kardiologie und Pneumologie, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen (AG Zeisberg)

08/2021 – 10/2021

- Cloned CasAAV gene-editing constructs and produced/titrated AAV2 vectors for an *in vivo* gene knockout study

Klinik für Psychosomatische Medizin, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen (AG Meyer)

04/2021 – 06/2021

- Engineered STAT3 signaling mutants and quantified pathway activation to characterize structure–function relationships in cytokine signaling

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cell Therapy Process and Quality Assistant, Cellex CMT GmbH, Köln

09/2024 – Present

- Performed functional release testing of clinical CAR-T products via multiparametric flow cytometry
- Conducted immune subset and viability profiling for Phase I/II oncology trials
- Initiated an internal scientific discussion series on CAR-T biology and GMP quality systems

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Flow Cytometry:** MACSQuant X, Navios, BD FACSMelody, CytoFLEX S, Accellix, FlowJo · T cell exhaustion panels (TIM-3/LAG-3/PD-1)
- Molecular Biology:** RT-qPCR (384-well), Western blot, siRNA/ASO in primary human cells, molecular cloning, direct ELISA
- Mouse Models:** FELASA B-equivalent - organ isolation, tissue processing, i.p./i.s.c./i.v.
- Immunofluorescence Microscopy:** Z-stack acquisition, Fiji/ZenStudio, immunofluorescence on tissue and cells
- Clinical Context:** primary human immune, PBMC isolation, T cell culture (BSL-2), THP1
- Bioinformatics:** R (Seurat, DESeq2, hdf5r) - scRNA-seq, self-taught (NSCLC dataset)

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

- DAAD Scholarship (2021–2022), German Federal Government — 1 of 3 recipients, sole natural sciences awardee
- Invited lecture: "CAR-T Cell Therapy as the Next Frontier in Immunotherapy," Sociedad Cubana de Inmunología (2026)
- Invited lecture: "CAR-T Applications and Manufacturing: From Bench to Bedside," İzmir University Medical School (2026)
- Poster: "STX3-mediated vesicular trafficking in airway epithelial mucus secretion," DGfP Annual Meeting, Berlin (2023)
- Lead Communications Activator, Nucleate Germany NRW (2025–present) · Member, SITC (2026–present) · Member, ISCT (2025–present)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Hiwi), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

2021 – 2022

Taught MSc-level cardiac physiology and epigenetics; developed structured interactive teaching modules

LANGUAGES

Montenegrin (native) · English (C2) · German (B1/B2)