

Paul-Ehrlich-Institut Postfach 63207 Langen

International Xenotransplantation Association,
IXA

USA

Prof. Dr. Ralf Reinhard Tönjes
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Travel Award Application

Supporting Letter

Merle Flecks works for her PhD thesis in my laboratory at Paul-Ehrlich-Institut, Langen, Germany; Division of Haematology, Cell and Gene Therapy; Research Group for Non-vital Tissue Preparations, Xenogeneic Cell Therapeutics, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024.

Merle Flecks does investigate virological aspects of porcine endogenous retroviruses (PERV). The aims of the PhD thesis are i) the characterization of superinfection resistance of PERV as well as ii) the investigation and molecular cloning of the PERV-C receptor.

Merle Flecks' experimental approaches and investigations to accomplish the aims are profound and extensive. She has generated significant results in the course of her laboratory work. So far, she has systematically summarized the data of project i) in an accurate and comprehensible form as a manuscript to be published in a scientific journal.

Merle Flecks is a highly motivated, independently working and ambitious student, who is open to the exploration of new ideas. With little guidance needed, she designed her own experimental work with high accuracy and high engagement. Merle fulfilled any job to our full satisfaction. She is able to give consistently good presentations of her work in internal seminars and external research workshops.

Merle Flecks is an exemplary and well-liked co-worker among fellow students and among post-doctoral scientists. She is a very talented scientist whom I highly recommend for the IXA travel award application at the 2023 San Diego IPITA-IXA-CTRMS Joint Congress, 26 - 29 October.



Ralf Reinhard Tönjes

