



Targeting treatment-resistant metastatic melanoma

Cutaneous melanoma is one of the most aggressive cancers and metastasizes already in early stages through the lymph and blood vessels to distant organs. It is the most deadly skin cancer and its incidence rates are still increasing worldwide, which especially impacts Switzerland with the third highest rate of melanoma after Australia and New Zealand. Although, in recent years promising small molecules and immunotherapies targeting malignant melanoma have been developed, resistance occurs in most cases. Therefore, finding new treatment strategies for melanoma patients is an urgent medical need.

[The Levesque laboratory](#) specializes in translational oncology research in the Department of Dermatology at the University Hospital of Zurich and the University of Zurich. We are working in close collaboration with physicians as well as with the pharmaceutical industry to develop the best treatment options from bench to bedside.

The lab is equipped with the most advanced technologies, such as 10x sequencing, multiplex imaging, high-performance computing, *ex vivo* and *in vivo* tumor models, and has access to one of the world's largest live melanoma biobanks. It is a dynamic team of Master's, PhD, and clinical PhD students as well as technicians, post-docs, and clinical researchers working on translational research questions.

We are looking for highly motivated Master students and have the following projects:

Project 1: *The role of extracellular vesicles in treatment resistance and melanoma cell phenotypes (Dr. Evelyn Lattmann)*

Project 2: *panRAF/MEK inhibitor combination for the treatment of melanomas with NRAS mutations (Dr. Ossia Eichhoff)*

Project 3: *The role of TEAD-signaling as a potential target for treatment-resistant melanoma (Dr. Ossia Eichhoff)*

Project 4: *cAMP/CREB signaling in melanoma treatment resistance (Dr. Corinne Stoffel)*

If you are interested, please contact Prof. Mitch Levesque (mitchell.levesque@usz.ch) for further information.

We look forward to recruiting new members of our team!

