

## Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** Dersch, Petra, Prof. Dr.  
**Born:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965 in Gießen  
**Family status:** married, no children  
**Position:** Professor for Microbiology (W3)  
**Citizenship:** German

**Affiliation:** **Institute for Infectiology**  
Center for Molecular Biology of Inflammation (ZMBE)  
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## Professional Career

since 2019 **Director of the Institute for Infectiology (W3)**, University Münster, Germany  
2008-2019 **Head of the Department 'Molecular Infection Biology'** at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Braunschweig, Germany  
2008-2019 **Full Professor (W3)** of Molecular Infection Biology at the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany  
2008-2019 Lecturer for Graduate Schools of the Medical School Hannover (MHH), and the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation (TiHo), HZI Graduate School (HZI)  
2005 - 2008 **Associate Professor (W2)** for Microbiology at the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany  
2003 - 2005 **Junior Research Group Leader** at the Robert Koch-Institute (RKI), Berlin, Germany  
1998 - 2002 **Group leader (C1)** at the Free University Berlin, Germany

## Academic Training

2005 **Habilitation** in Microbiology, Free University Berlin, Germany  
1995 - 1998 **Postdoctoral researcher**, DFG funded, at the Tufts Medical School/Howard Hughes Medical Institute with Prof. Dr. Ralph Isberg, Boston, USA  
1991 - 1995 **PhD** (Dr. rer. nat.) in Microbiology at the University of Konstanz and the Max Planck-Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology Marburg (Supervisor Prof. Dr. E. Bremer), with distinction '*summa cum laude*'  
1984 - 1990 **Studies in Biology**  
University of Konstanz ('Diplom', grade: 1.0)  
University of Ulm ('Vordiplom', grade: 1.0)

## Fellowships, Awards, Honors and Science Committees

since 2019 Head of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck-Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Marburg  
since 2018 Head of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin  
since 2018 Elected Member of the Senate of the German Research Foundation (DFG)  
since 2018 Elected Member of the European Academy of Microbiology (EAM)

since 2018	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck-Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Marburg
since 2017	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz Institute - German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSMZ), Braunschweig
since 2017	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Robert Koch-Institute (RKI), Berlin
since 2016	Elected Vice-President of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
since 2016	Full Member of the Central Committee on Biological Safety (ZKBS) responsible for evaluating genetically modified organisms
2015-2018	Member and Vice-Speaker (since 2016) of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin
since 2014	Board Member of the International Graduate School of the Hans Knöll-Institute (HKI), Jena
2013	Main Prize of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
2012 - 2018	Elected Member and Vice-Speaker (since 2016) of the 'Fachkollegium 204 Mikrobiologie, Virologie & Immunologie' of the German Research Foundation (DFG)
2012 - 2017	Selected member in the Helmholtz Think Tank, Berlin
2010 - 2013	Elected Representative of the Scientists in the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Supervisory Board of the HZI
2010 - 2012	Organizer of the 'German-American Frontiers of Science' (GAFOS) Conference Topic Molecular Biology by the National Academy of Science, USA, and the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation
2009 - 2013	Elected Speaker of the 'Fachgruppe: Mikrobielle Pathogenität' of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM) and German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM)
2009 - 2015	Scientific Board of the IRTG1273: Strategies of human pathogens to establish acute and chronic infections (MHH)
2009 - 2013	Scientific Board of the SFB621: Pathobiology of the intestinal mucosa (MHH)
2007 - 2013	Scientific Board of the Research Consortium: BMBF/Zoonosis Research Networks - FBI-Zoo
1996-1998	Research fellowship of the German Research Foundation (DFG)
1995-1996	Postdoctoral fellowship of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute
1995	Postdoctoral fellowship of the Max Planck Society
1992-1994	PhD fellowship of the 'Böhringer Ingelheim Fonds' (BIF)
1991-1992	PhD fellowship of the 'Graduiertenförderung des Landes Baden-Württemberg'

## Major Scientific Interests

1. **Host-pathogen interactions** of enteropathogenic bacteria, host cell adhesion and invasion mechanisms, colonization strategies and infection routes
2. **Regulation of virulence factors and strategies** during infection (global and specific transcription factors, sensory and regulatory RNAs, global reprogramming from acute to chronic infections, heterogeneous gene expression and modeling of regulatory circuits)
3. Analysis of **pathogen-induced host immune responses** (e.g. inflammation, activation of immune cells) and **bacterial defense mechanisms**