



Congratulations to the ILCA Fellowship 2021 Awardee Benjamin Ruf!

Dr. Benjamin Ruf is a physician-scientist focusing on tumor immunology and immunotherapy in liver cancer and other GI malignancies.

Dr. Ruf received his M.D. from studies at the University of Tübingen, King's College London and the University of Aberdeen. In his dissertation project, he investigated the use of oncolytic viruses for treatment of HCC.

After graduation, he did his Internal Medicine residency with a focus on Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Gastro-Oncology at the University Hospital in Tübingen, Germany. Driven by his strong interests in tumor immunology, he joined Dr. Tim Greten's group at the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In Dr. Greten's lab, he aims to expand our knowledge of the composition, phenotype, organization of the liver tumor microenvironment (TME) and to further elucidate interactions between immune cells and tumor cells. Herby, he combines cutting-edge technology like high-dimensional FLOW cytometry, CODEX and scRNA-seq to get a comprehensive picture of both the spatial and transcriptomic composition of tumor tissues.

The overall goal of his research is to gain in-depth understanding of systemic, trans-cellular interactions leading to the development of better treatments and diagnostic in the context of cancer immunotherapy. He gets particularly excited about mucosal-associated invariant T (MAIT) cells, an important innate-like immune cell that has not yet been investigated in-depth in the context of cancer. He uses *in vivo* models of liver cancer to study their function and try to find ways to employ these cells for cancer immunotherapy.

