

# Prof. Dr. Alexander Westermann

## Group Leader

Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI)

Josef-Schneider-Str. 2 / Building D15

97080 Würzburg | Germany

+49 931 31 83781

alexander.westermann@helmholtz-hiri.de | www.helmholtz-hiri.de



## Education

2015	Dr. rer. nat., Molecular Infection Biology, University of Würzburg, Germany
2010	MSc, Molecular Biosciences, University of Heidelberg, Germany
2008	BSc, Biology, University of Heidelberg, Germany

## Positions

2023 - present	Professor (W2), Chair of Microbiology, Biocenter, University of Würzburg, Germany
2023 - present	Group Leader, Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI), Würzburg, Germany
2018 - 2023	Junior Professor (W1), Institute for Molecular Infection Biology (IMIB), Würzburg, Germany
2018 - 2023	Junior Group Leader, Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research, Würzburg, Germany
2018	EMBO Fellow, MRC Centre for Molecular Bacteriology & Infection, Imperial College, London UK
2017 - 2018	Visiting Researcher, Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology, UC Davis, CA, USA
2015 - 2017	Postdoc, RNA Biology, Institute for Molecular Infection Biology, Würzburg, Germany
2009	Visiting Researcher, Department of Chemistry and Department of Molecular Cell Biology, UC Berkeley, CA, USA

## Committee Work

2022 - present	Member of the Flex Funds Review Board NFDI4 Microbiota (National Research Data Infrastructure)
2020 - present	Reviewer for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

## Awards & Honors

ERC Starting Grant (2022), Postdoc Award in Microbiology, Robert-Koch-Foundation (2016), Dissertation Prize of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) (2016), PhD Stipend of the Elite Network of Bavaria (2012 - 2015)

## Editorial Boards

eLife, Infection & Immunity

## Selected Publications

- Ryan D, Bornet E, Prezza G, Varshini Alampalli S, Franco de Carvalho T, Felchle H, Ebbecke T, Hayward R, Deutschbauer AM, Barquist L, **Westermann AJ** (2024)  
*An expanded transcriptome atlas for Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron reveals a small RNA that modulates tetracycline sensitivity*  
**Nature Microbiology** 9(4):1130-1144
- Prezza G, Liao C, Reichardt S, Beisel CL, **Westermann AJ** (2024)  
*CRISPR-based screening of small RNA modulators of bile susceptibility in Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*  
**PNAS** 121(6):e2311323121
- Westermann AJ**#, Vogel J# (2021)  
*Cross-species RNA-seq for deciphering host-microbe interactions*  
**Nature Reviews Genetics** 22(6):361-378
- Ryan D, Jenniches L, Reichardt S, Barquist L, **Westermann AJ** (2020)  
*A high-resolution transcriptome map identifies small RNA regulation of metabolism in the gut microbe Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*  
**Nature Communications** 11(1):3557
- Westermann AJ**, Förstner KU, Amman F, Barquist L, Chao Y, Schulte LN, Müller L, Reinhardt R, Stadler PF, Vogel J (2016)  
*Dual RNA-seq unveils noncoding RNA functions in Salmonella-host interplay*  
**Nature** 529(7587):496-501