interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Klinische Forschung

Clinician Scientist Programme - Biosketch Module Step 1

Title/ First Name/ Last Name

Dr. med. Thanos Tsaktanis

Clinic

Department of Neurology

CV (Current position, academic career, achievements and extracurricular activities, languages)

Current position:
- Since 09/2020 Resident at the Department of Neurology of the University Hospital Erlangen
- 08/2017 - 08/2020 Resident at the Department of Neurology of the Technical University of Munich

Academic career:
- 06/2018 Medical doctoral thesis, summa cum laude (title: "Proteolytische Spaltung von humanem EpCAM und deren Einfluss auf die Zelladhäsion
- Since 06/2018 Clinician Scientist at the laboratory of experimental gliabiology; Department of Neuroimmunology (AG Rothhammer)

Achievements:
- 03/2013 Stipend from Ludwigs-Maximilians-University of Munich (FöFoLe)
- 01/2019 Stipend from Technical University of Munich (KKF)
- 09/2019 Stipend of the SEED program (Kompetenznetzes Multiple Sklerose; KKNMS)

Languages: German, English

Research Area

Neurosciences

Neuroimmunology

CSP Project Outline

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune inflammatory disease of the central nervous system (CNS). The majority of MS patients develops a progressive course over the years, in which neurological deficits irreversibly accumulate independently of relapses (secondary progressive MS, SPMS). Since causal therapies for the progressive stage are still highly limitedit is of utmost importance to monitor the course of disease in RRMS patients to select the most appropriate therapy to avoid the transition into the progressive phase..To date, this monitoring relays on neuroimaging and clinical findings, while valid and broadly applicable biomarkers for this purposeare missing. Thus, we here propose to investigate novel biomarkers for monitoring MS disease course.
In this project, we seek to validate the diagnostic and translational potential of soluble PD-L1 in MS and its animal model experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE). Together, these studies will evaluate the potential relevance of sPD-L1 as a novel biomarker over the course of MS Together, these experiments will form the basis for additional studies investigating the role of sPD-L1 and co-inhibitory signaling in MS, which might lead to novel insights into pathophysiology as well as to surveillance and treatment strategies for MS.

Most important/ first Publication (or Title Dissertation)

Tsaktanis T., Beyer T., Nirschl L., Linnerbauer M., Grummel V., Bussas M., Tjon E., Mühlau, M., Korn T., Hemmer B., Quintana J. F., Rothhammer V..
Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Plasma Agonist Activity Correlates With Disease Activity in Progressive MS. Neurol Neuroimmunol Neuroinflamm. 2021 Mar; 8(2): e933.