Kira Höffler

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Profiles: **LinkedIn, Google Scholar, ORCID**

Research Experience

PhD Research Fellow

Epigenetics of Mental Disorders – **Stéphanie Le Hellard** 08/2022
Haukeland University Hospital (Bergen, Norway) – present

Project: Identifying Markers and Predictors of Response to Psychotherapy in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Erasmus Internship

Epigenetics of Mental Disorders – **Stéphanie Le Hellard** 11/2021
Haukeland University Hospital (Bergen, Norway) – 06/2022

Project: Epigenome-Wide Association Studies in Cases and Controls With High and Low Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia

Erasmus Internship & Student Assistantship

Translational Research in Psychiatry – **Elisabeth Binder** 03/2021
Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry (Munich, Germany) – 10/2021

M.Sc. Thesis: Establishing a cellular model to identify interaction partners of dexamethasone-activated glucocorticoid receptor (9.0)

Student Assistantship

Neurogenetics of Vocal Communication – **Sonja Vernes** 01/2021
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (Nijmegen, Netherlands) – 04/2021

Internship

Translational Genomics of Neurodevelopmental Disorders – **Annette Schenck** 01/2020
Radboudumc (Nijmegen, Netherlands) – 08/2020

M.Sc. Thesis: Dissecting the mechanism of habituation deficits in Drosophila models of Autism Spectrum Disorder (9.0)

Student Assistantship

Epigenetic control of phenotypic variation and disease – **J. Andrew Pospisilik** 11/2016
Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Freiburg (Germany) – 03/2019

Project: Characterising newly discovered, epigenetically distinct β cell subsets.

Internship

Psychiatric Genetics and Epigenetics – **Katharina Domschke** 04/2018
Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (Freiburg, Germany) – 09/2018

B.Sc. Thesis: The role of *LSD1* DNA methylation in the pathogenesis of anxiety disorders. (1.0)

Internship

Protein complexes in chromatin regulation – **Roland Schüle** 02/2016
Centre for Clinical Research, Freiburg (Germany) – 04/2016

Project: Generation of miRNA constructs for the knockdown of target genes in different cell types using the Gateway Cloning technology (1.0)

Education

PhD Research Fellow 08/2022 – present
Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen (Bergen, Norway)
Research group: Epigenetics of Mental Disorders
Supervisors: Stephanie Le Hellard, Kerry Ressler

M.Sc. Medical Biology / Medical Epigenomics 2019 – 2021
Radboud University (Nijmegen, Netherlands)
Final grade: 8.92 (GPA 4.0)

B.Sc. Molecular Medicine 2015 – 2019
Albert Ludwig University (Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany)
Final grade: 1.2

Allgemeine Hochschulreife (A levels) 2006 – 2015
Gymnasium an der Stadtmauer (Bad Kreuznach, Germany)
Final grade: 1.0

Scholarships & Awards

Meltzer prosjektstipend (18,000 NOK), Meltzer Research Fund 03/2024
travel grant for the World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics in Singapore (Oct. 2024)

Award for the Best Speed Talk, Bioinformatics in Bergen Conference 05/2023

Meltzer prosjektstipend (23,000 NOK), Meltzer Research Fund 03/2023
travel grant for the World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics in Montréal, Canada (Oct. 2023)

Poster Award (2nd prize, 5,000 NOK), Forskerskolen i klinisk medisin, Annual Research Presentations 2023 01/2023

Poster Award, NORMENT (Norwegian Centre for Mental Disorders Research) Annual Meeting 2022 09/2022

PhD fellowship, University of Bergen 08/2022 – 07/2026

Erasmus Plus Scholarship 11/2021 – 06/2022

Scholarship of the Villigst Protestant Academic Foundation 02/2016 – 11/2021
Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst

Scholarship of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation 11/2015 – 09/2021
Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Erasmus Plus Scholarship & Max Planck Scholarship 06/2021 – 08/2021
initially awarded from 03/2021 – 08/2021, but paused from March to June due to high Covid-19 incidences in Germany

Scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service 09/2019 – 03/2021
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

2nd place German Young Scientists (Jugend forscht) & Special Award 02/2015
of the Foundation 'Deutsches Museum München & Förderverein MNU'

International Mobility

Bergen, Norway 11/2021 – present

Nijmegen, Netherlands 08/2019 – 02/2021

Publications

Strom NI, Halvorsen MW, Tian C, Rück C, Kvale G, Hansen B, Bybjerg-Grauholm J, Grove J, Boberg J, Nissen JB, Damm Als T, Werge T, de Schipper E, Fundin B, Hultman C, **Höffler KD**, Pedersen N, Sandin S, Bulik C, Landén M, Karlsson E, Hagen K, Lindblad-Toh K; Nordic OCD and Related Disorders Consortium (NORDiC); 23andMe Research Team; PGC TS/OCD working group; Hougaard DM, Meier SM, Hellard SL, Mors O, Børglum AD, Haavik J, Hinds DA, Mataix-Cols D, Crowley JJ, Mattheisen M. **Genome-wide association study identifies new loci associated with OCD. medRxiv [Preprint]. 2024** Mar 8:2024.03.06.24303776.

Dror E, Fagnocchi L, Wegert V, Apostle S, Grimaldi B, Gruber T, Panzeri I, Heyne S, **Höffler KD**, Kreiner V, Ching R, Tsai-Hsiu Lu T, Semwal A, Johnson B, Senapati P, Lempradl A, Schones D, Imhof A, Shen H, Pospisilik JA. **Epigenetic dosage identifies two major and functionally distinct β cell subtypes. Cell Metab**. **2023** May 2;35(5):821-836.e7.

Blok LER, Boon M, van Reijmersdal B, **Höffler KD**, Fenckova M, Schenck A. **Genetics, molecular control and clinical relevance of habituation learning. Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2022** Dec; 143:104883.

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

Invited talk in the research group of Prof. Dr. Marcella Rietschel *at **Zentralinstitut für Seelische Gesundheit** (Mannheim, Germany)* 01/2024

Epigenetic Markers of Response to Psychotherapy in OCD (poster). ***Epigenomics of Common Diseases Conference** (Wellcome Genome Campus, UK)* 11/2023

Epigenetic Markers of Response to Psychotherapy in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (talk). ***World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics** (Montréal, Canada).* 10/2023

Epigenetic Markers of Response in OCD (poster). ***Medical Faculty Day** (Bergen, Norway)* 09/2023

Invited talk in the research group of Prof. Dr. Tobias Kaufmann at ***University Hospital Tübingen** (Tübingen, Germany).* 08/2023

Epigenetic biomarkers for psychotherapy response in OCD (talk). ***Bioinformatics in Bergen Conference** (Solstrand, Norway).* 05/2023

Epigenome-Wide Association Studies in Cases and Controls With High and Low Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia (poster). ***Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting** (San Diego, United States).* 04/2023

Epigenome-Wide Association Studies in Cases and Controls With High and Low Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia (poster). ***Annual Research Presentations 2023*** at Haukeland University Hospital *(Bergen, Norway)* 01/2023

Epigenome-Wide Association Studies in Cases and Controls With High and Low Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia (poster). ***World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics** (Florence, Italy).* 09/2022

Epigenome-wide association studies in cases and controls with high and low genetic risk for schizophrenia (talk). ***Bioinformatics in Bergen Conference*** *(Solstrand, Norway)*. 05/2022

Certificates

FELASA B Certificate *Core, Rodent & Mouse Modules* 09/2018

IELTS Academic Test *Overall Score: 8 (out of 9)* 07/2018

Skills

Programming languages *R, Python*

Laboratory techniques *(q)PCR, Western Blot, Cell culture, Co-Immunoprecipitation, Pyrosequencing, RNA & DNA isolation, and more*

Model organisms *Drosophila, mouse (basics)*

Languages *German (native language), English (C1), French (A1), Dutch (A1), Norwegian (A1)*

Activities

Board member of the Research School of Clinical Medicine, Bergen 11/2022 – present

Organisation of the Annual Research Presentations at Haukeland University Hospital 01/2023
38 presenters (posters & oral presentations). Bergen, Norway.

Organisation of the NORMENT Early Career Research Meeting 2022 11/2022
67 participants. Oslo, Norway.

Peer to Peer Programme *(Mentoring two students from abroad)* 07/2020 – 12/2021
Faculty of Science, Radboud University

German universities use a grading scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest possible grade and 4 being the lowest sufficient grade to pass. Dutch universities use a grading scale from 0 to 10 with 10 being the highest possible grade and 6 being the lowest sufficient grade to pass. Here, the highest pass mark 10 is extremely rare as it implies perfection.