



**Initial Training Network** - Developing innovative (bio)artificial devices for kidney & liver disease treatment

**Interview with Juergen DOBMEYER**  
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Germany

«I completed my medical studies at the Universities of Montpellier, France and Mainz, Germany. I defended my dissertation in immunology, summa cum laude, at the University of Mainz. After that I had training in clinical genetics and cardiometabolic diseases at the university hospital in Heidelberg, Germany and then training in infectious disease, immunology and hemato-oncology at the university hospital in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

I then worked in the healthcare industry in Frankfurt, in post-approval pharmacovigilance services before transitioning to global business information & analytics assisting the strategic decision making process of corporate health care management with solutions for portfolio optimisation, launch & brand management, and market forecasts.

From there I re-located to Basel in Switzerland with temporary deployments to overseas research groups in Europe, US and Africa. At that time I was responsible for the global management of clinical research and development projects of both pharmaceuticals and medical devices with a therapeutic focus on infectious diseases, immunology, and oncology from early phase clinical development, proof of concept trials all the way to Investigational New Drug (IND) registration trials for US and EU markets.

And here I am now in BIOART!  
BIOART will offer me the unique opportunity to expand my regulatory and development expertise in the area of innovative and complex Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products. These new advanced treatment options offer revolutionary treatments for a number of diseases or injuries and have a huge potential for helping patients to live a better, healthier and longer life.»



## **What is your post-doc project about? What objectives do you have to reach?**

The focus of the project will be research and training on **regulatory procedures**, review of available literature and publications including benchmarks from other health care or pharmaceutical/cosmetic/medical device development activities for advanced and complex medicinal regenerative products for human use. This will include the identification of European product regulatory processes and current regulatory trends. **If I could ultimately contribute to promote access and availability of innovative and advanced therapies for patients, my research mission would be completed.**

An additional aspect of my work will be to **develop key milestones for the commercialisation strategy of medical devices and Advanced Therapy Medical Products.** This could also include awareness campaigns targeted to patients, physicians, health technology assessment experts, pharmacist and payers.

The expertise developed during this research project can be translated to many applications, in particular in the field of regenerative medicine and the development of new enabling technologies for manufacturing, e.g. bioreactors or 3D bio-printing to name only a few. The skills developed during this research project will build the capacity to assist with regulatory questions in the area of regulatory procedures and clinical development. The overall goal is to allow patients living a healthier and longer life thanks to their accessing demonstrated safe, efficient, innovative and advanced therapies with defined scientific and ethical requirements.

Bionethos Innovation GmbH was founded in 2007. It focuses on research and development in the field of regenerative technologies.

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## **What is the best thing about undertaking a postdoc? How challenging is it?**

Continuous Innovation, Education and Training are key components of any globalised venture in whatever industry, business or market segment we are in. Innovation starts with research and early development. This is the first and most important step in any product or service life cycle: the stage where ideas are born, tested, re-tested, and put into practice. What is more exciting than seeing how thoughts create ideas, ideas create hypotheses that are tested, verified or falsified and at the end something new, never seen before develops under your hands and eyes. Thomas A. Edison has best described the energizing motivation of being a researcher: "I have not failed 1,000 times. I have successfully discovered 1,000 ways to NOT make a light bulb.»

## **What is appealing to you in being a researcher?**

Let me answer you... by asking questions first! Why make fatter mice if we already have rats? Why change the color of a mammal's hair? Why train fish to respond to certain stimuli? Why would anyone invest efforts to investigate the biochemical pathways in one-celled organisms? The answer is: We do not find solutions in replicating, combining, improving or adjusting knowledge that is already available. The body of knowledge and information collected by basic researchers, collaborative research groups or clinical investigators creates a coherent and systematic pathway to approach the unresolved medicinal problems of humanity. Research thus provides the fundamental theories and concepts for further targeted investigations and clinical development projects.

**Thank you Juergen for answering my questions, and all the best for your post-doc at Bionethos!**

