Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Miriam Wittmann

*20.04.1970

Professor of Inflammatory Skin Diseases (W3)

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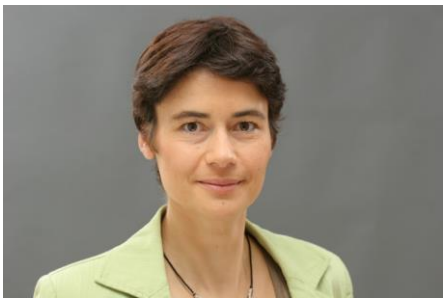

Academia

07/2013	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)
01/12/2012	Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (Route 2 – by portfolio), University of Leeds
July 07, 2007	Venia legendi (Habilitation) for Dermatology & Venereology, Hannover, Germany
April 24, 2005	Board certification in Dermatology (German Specialist Register)
10/2005	Positive evaluation of "Junior-Professorship" Hannover, Germany
06 May 1999	MD thesis in the field of the autoimmune pathogenesis of type I diabetes; Diabetes Research Institute, Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf

Career

05/2022 – today	Professor in Inflammatory Skin Diseases, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Department of Dermatology, Lead Consultant for Autoimmune Diseases including specialized Lupus clinic
04/2012 – 04/2022	Associate Professor in Inflammatory Skin Diseases, Specialist Doctor in Dermatology, University of Leeds & Department of Dermatology (NHS Foundation Trust, Bradford) & Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit (LMBRU; NIHR)
11/2008 – 03/2012	Lecturer in Immunology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Leeds
03/2003 – 10/2008	Head of the outpatient clinic for autoimmune skin diseases at Hannover Medical School (jointly with Prof. T. Werfel)
12/2002 – 10/2008	Position as "Junior Professor" for Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases, Department of Dermatology, Hannover
08/1999 – 07/2001	Postdoctoral Research Fellow [funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)], Department of Dermatology, Hannover
12/1996 – 12/2002	Resident & Research Assistant / Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Dermatology, Hannover Medical School

Editorial Boards

Editorial Board	Associate Editor: • Frontiers in Immunology (section Inflammation; 2017- 12/2019) • JDDG (2017 – 2020) Section Editor • Journal Investigative Dermatology (since 5/2019) • Section Immunodermatology JDDG since 08/2024

Selected current research projects

	Project title and Support	***Role***

2024-2027	German Research Foundation (DFG) grant on early event in Lupus erythematosus	PI
2021 –2024	Psoriasis Association: Can molecular epidermal analysis predict response to treatment; PhD Studentship	PI
2022- 2024	Pfizer global competitive grant on tissue memory cells in atopic dermatitis	PI
2015-2022	ALPHA trial (Comparison of ALitretinoin with PUVA as the first line treatment in patients with severe chronic HAnd eczema); National Institute of Health Research (**NIHR**) HTA, multicenter (30 UK centres)	Chief Investigator (CI)

Selected Publications

H-index: 45 (Scopus); ORCID: 0000-0003-2328-4926; relevant to the subject in red

- Berekmeri A, Macleod T, Hyde I, Ojak GJ, Mann C, Kramer D, Stacey M, **Wittmann M**. Epidermal proteomics demonstrates Elafin as a psoriasis-specific biomarker and highlights increased anti-inflammatory activity around psoriatic plaques. J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol. 2025 Jul;39(7):1324-1335.
- Mann C, Ojak G, Hyde I, Beczinski J, Pawlowski J, Wegner J, Becker D, Stacey M, Tenzer S, **Wittmann M**. Epidermal IL-36 and CCL17 protein expression distinguish palmar eczema from palmar psoriasis. J Invest Dermatol. 2025 May 30:S0022-202X(25)00535-4.
- Fischer B, Kolb A, Focaccia E, Kübelbeck T, Klein M, Löck D, Bork F, Engelmann F, Casari M, Mazza E, Deppermann C, Weber ANR, **Wittmann M**, Schittek B, Schulze-Osthoff K, Kramer D. NOD2-Induced IκBζ Mediates a Protective Host Response against Epicutaneous Staphylococcus aureus Infection. J Invest Dermatol. 2025 May 22:S0022-202X(25)00494-4.
- Stege H, Haist M, Schultheis M, Pawlowski J, **Wittmann M**, Grabbe S, Butsch F. Treatment of Lichen Planopilaris and Frontal Fibrosing Alopecia: A Retrospective, Real-Life Analysis in a Tertiary Center in Germany. J Clin Med. 2024 Aug 22;13(16):4947.
- **Wittmann M**, Smith IL, Brown ST, Berekméri A, Vargas-Palacios A, Sunderland L, Barker A, Cowdell F, Ersser S, Gilberts R, Green C, Hampton P, Smith C, Nixon J. *Alitretinoin versus phototherapy as the first-line treatment in adults with severe chronic hand eczema: the ALPHA RCT*. Health Technol Assess. 2024 Oct;28(59):1-123.
- Edwards SJ, Karner C, Jhita T, Barton S, Marceniuk G, Yiu ZZN, **Wittmann M**. *Abrocitinib, tralokinumab and upadacitinib for treating moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis*. Health Technol Assess. 2024;28(4):1-113.
- Fischer B, Kübelbeck T, Kolb A, Ringen J, Waisman A, **Wittmann M**, Karbach S, Kölsch S, Kramer D: *IL-17A-driven psoriasis is critically dependent on IL-36 signaling*. Frontiers Immunology 2023; 14:1256133.
- Pawlowski J, Beczinski J, Stege H, Mann C, Butsch F, Al-Nawas B, Kaya S, **Wittmann M**. *Bridging the gaps: management of lichen planus subtypes in a joint dermatology-oral surgery clinic.* Clin Exp Dermatol. 2023 Dec 19;49(1):18-25. doi: 10.1093/ced/llad335. PMID: 37768125.
- Carter LM, Alase A, Wigston Z, Psarras A, Burska A, Sutton E, Yusof MYM, Reynolds JA; MASTERPLANS Consortium; McHugh N, Emery P, **Wittmann M**, Bruce IN, Vital EM. Gene Expression and Autoantibody Analysis Revealing Distinct Ancestry-Specific Profiles Associated With Response to Rituximab in Refractory Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2023 May;75(5):697-710.
- Bridgewood C, **Wittmann M**, Macleod T, Watad A, Newton D, Bhan K, Amital H, Damiani G, Giryes S, Bragazzi NL, McGonagle D. *T Helper 2 IL-4/IL-13 Dual Blockade with Dupilumab Is Linked to Some Emergent T Helper 17–Type Diseases, Including Seronegative Arthritis and Enthesitis/Enthesopathy, but Not to Humoral Autoimmune Diseases*. J Invest Dermatol. 2022:S0022-202X(22)00256-1.
- Smith IL, Gilberts R, Brown S, Fernandez C, Nixon J, Reynolds C, Smith C, Lear JT, Sunderland L, Green C, Goodfield M, Cowdell F, Hampton P, Barker A, Vargas-Palacios A, Tubeuf S, **Wittmann M**. *Comparison of ALitretinoin with PUVA as the first-line treatment in patients with severe chronic HAnd eczema (ALPHA): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial*. BMJ Open. 2022;12(2): e060029.
- Bridgewood C, Newton D, Bragazzi N, **Wittmann M**, McGonagle D. *Unexpected connections of the IL-*

23/IL-17 and IL-4/IL-13 cytokine axes in inflammatory arthritis and enthesitis. Semin Immunol 2021: 101520.

- Psarras A, **Wittmann M**, Vital EM. *Emerging concepts of type I interferons in SLE pathogenesis and therapy.* Nat Rev Rheumatol. 2022;18(10):575-590.
- Macleod T, Bridgewood C, Hyde I, Heague M, Helliwell P, Stacey M, **Wittmann M**. *Molecular and cellular regulation of psoriatic inflammation.* Clin Sci (Lond). 2022;136(12):935-952.
- Carter LM, McGonagle D, Vital EM, **Wittmann M**. *Applying Early Intervention Strategies to Autoimmune Skin Diseases. Is the Window of Opportunity Preclinical?* A Dermato-Rheumatology Perspective. J Invest Dermatol. 2022;142(3 Pt B):944-950.
- Macleod T, Berekmeri A, Bridgewood C, Stacey M, McGonagle D, **Wittmann M**. *The Immunological Impact of IL-1 Family Cytokines on the Epidermal Barrier.* Front Immunol. 2021;12:808012.
- Macleod T, Ainscough JS, Hesse C, Konzok S, Braun A, Buhl AL, Wenzel J, Bowyer P, Terao Y, Herrick S, **Wittmann M**, Stacey M. *The Proinflammatory Cytokine IL-36γ Is a Global Discriminator of Harmless Microbes and Invasive Pathogens within Epithelial Tissues.* Cell Rep. 2020;33(11):108515.
- Psarras A, Alase A, Antanaviciute A, Carr IM, Md Yusof MY, **Wittmann M**, Emery P, Tsokos GC, Vital EM. *Functionally impaired plasmacytoid dendritic cells and non-haematopoietic sources of type I interferon characterize human autoimmunity*. Nat Commun. 2020;11(1):6149.
- El-Sherbiny YM, Md Yusof MY, Psarras A, Hensor EMA, Kabba KZ, Dutton K, Mohamed AAA, Elewaut D, McGonagle D, Tooze R, Doody G, **Wittmann M**, Emery P, Vital EM. B Cell Tetherin: A Flow Cytometric Cell-Specific Assay for Response to Type I Interferon Predicts Clinical Features and Flares in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2020 May;72(5):769-779.
- Md Yusof MY, Britton J, Edward S, Hensor EMA, Goodfield MJ, Laws PM, Emery P, **Wittmann M**, Vital EM. Validity and sensitivity to change of laser Doppler imaging as a novel objective outcome measure for cutaneous lupus erythematosus. Lupus. 2019 Oct;28(11):1320-1328.
- Berekméri A, Tiganescu A, Alase AA, Vital E, Stacey M, **Wittmann M**. *Non-invasive Approaches for the Diagnosis of Autoimmune/Autoinflammatory Skin Diseases-A Focus on Psoriasis and Lupus erythematosus*. Front Immunol. 2019;10:1931.
- Shalbaf M, Alase AA, Berekmeri A, Md Yusof MY, Pistolic J, Goodfield MJ, bEdward S, Botchkareva NV, Stacey M, Vital EM, **Wittmann M**. *Plucked hair follicles from patients with chronic discoid lupus erythematosus show a disease-specific molecular signature*. Lupus Sci Med. 2019;6(1):e000328.
- Md Yusof MY, Psarras A, El-Sherbiny YM, Hensor EMA, Dutton K, Ul-Hassan S, Zayat AS, Shalbaf M, Alase A, **Wittmann M**, Emery P, Vital EM. Prediction of autoimmune connective tissue disease in an at-risk cohort: prognostic value of a novel two-score system for interferon status. Ann Rheum Dis. 2018 Oct;77(10):1432-1439.
- El-Sherbiny YM, Psarras A, Md Yusof MY, Hensor EMA, Tooze R, Doody G, Mohamed AAA, McGonagle D, **Wittmann M**, Emery P, Vital EM. A novel two-score system for interferon status segregates autoimmune diseases and correlates with clinical features. Sci Rep. 2018 Apr 11;8(1):5793.
- Vital EM, **Wittmann M**, Edward S, Md Yusof MY, MacIver H, Pease CT, Goodfield M, Emery P. Brief report: responses to rituximab suggest B cell-independent inflammation in cutaneous systemic lupus erythematosus. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2015 Jun;67(6):1586-91.
- Wang D, Drenker M, Eiz-Vesper B, Werfel T, **Wittmann M**. Evidence for a pathogenetic role of interleukin-18 in cutaneous lupus erythematosus. Arthritis Rheum. 2008 Oct;58(10):3205-15.
- Renne J, Werfel T, **Wittmann M**. High frequency of vitamin D deficiency among patients with cutaneous lupus erythematosus [corrected]. Br J Dermatol. 2008 Aug;159(2):485-6.

Other relevant:

Part of the MASTERPLANS consortium (MRC stratified medicine grant on SLE)

1. Akthar M, Nair N, Carter LM, Vital EM, Sutton E, McHugh N; British Isles Lupus Assessment Group Biologics Register (BILAG BR) Consortium; MASTERPLANS Consortium; Bruce IN, Reynolds JA. Deconvolution of whole blood transcriptomics identifies changes in immune cell composition in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) treated with mycophenolate mofetil. Arthritis Res Ther. 2023 Jun 30;25(1):111.
2. Gavan SP, Bruce IN, Payne K; MASTERPLANS Consortium. Valuing Health Gain from Composite Response Endpoints for Multisystem Diseases. Value Health. 2023 Jan;26(1):115-122.

3. McDonald S, Yiu S, Su L, Gordon C, Truman M, Lisk L, Solomons N, Bruce IN; MASTERPLANS Consortium. Predictors of treatment response in a lupus nephritis population: lessons from the Aspreva Lupus Management Study (ALMS) trial. Lupus Sci Med. 2022 May;9(1):e000584.

Mainz, Dez 5th 2025

SLEuro - ELECTION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

27.01.2026

Personal Summary

I am Professor of Inflammatory Diseases at the Department of Dermatology, Mainz, Germany, heading the autoimmune disease and a specialized cutaneous lupus clinic embedded in translational research. The department operates in close interdisciplinary collaboration with nephrology (Julia Weinmann-Menke) and rheumatology (Prof. Andreas Schwarting).

During my residency in Hannover, I was awarded my first DFG grant in 2005 to investigate the role of keratinocytes in cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE). The project focused on keratinocyte-derived mediators and keratinocyte-dependent interactions with lymphocytes.

In 2008, I moved to the University of Leeds with an academic affiliation to the Department of Rheumatology, where I worked closely with the group of Ed Vital on lupus erythematosus, with a particular focus on early diagnostic.

Now back in Germany, I continue my research in Mainz with a focus on early diagnostics, molecular CLE subtype characterization, CLE transition into SLE, and scarring LE. Our work is driven by close contact with patients and includes several clinical studies with real-world data collection and analysis to better understand disease-specific molecular signatures. By refining diagnostic pathways, we aim to offer more precise, individualized therapeutic strategies and ultimately improve patient care.

Over the past years, we have learned that tissue-resident cells and the local tissue environment play a central role in shaping the diverse clinical manifestations of lupus. I strongly believe that an interdisciplinary molecular and clinical understanding is essential to capture the full spectrum of LE pathology. Moreover, taking the patients' perspective across specialties, experience of symptoms, medication and lifestyle into account is equally critical for how we understand, manage, and ultimately treat this heterogeneous condition.

With a growing range of emerging therapies and innovative approaches, we have exciting and informative years ahead of us. I would be honored to contribute to shaping these next steps as a future member of the executive committee of SLEuro.