In frame of the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 877 an Integrated Research Training Group has been established and offers 10 MD-stipends per year.

Prerequisite is the participation in the research of one of the scientific projects of the CRC 877.

**CRC877: Proteolysis as a Regulatory Event in Pathophysiology**

The general aim of the CRC 877 is to obtain a profound understanding of proteolytic processes in cellular regulation and signaling and to define the involvement of such processes in human pathophysiology. For example, Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) needs to be cleaved in order to act systemically; we believe that this proteolytic cleavage is a key step in the development of inflammatory diseases. The goal of the CRC 877 is to define the molecular mechanisms regulating the proteolytic steps in signaling cascades and to understand the conceptionsal difference between proteolytic steps and other fast and reversible signaling events such as phosphorylation and methylation. This understanding will not only help to define pathophysiological situations mediated by cytokines and growth factors but also to define points of intervention for the development of novel therapeutic principles.

**Integrated Research Training Group**

A major goal of the proposed CRC877 is the high standard qualification and the support of young researchers. We therefore initiated an Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG) with the title ‘Proteases and Pathophysiology’. The IRTG gives 10 medical students financial support (746,-€ per month) for a one year lasting experimental MD thesis and offers an interdisciplinary and broad education. During the doctorate the scholarship holders could exclusively dedicate their time to their scientific work, become acquainted with the scientific topics of the CRC877 and learn new and advanced techniques.

A successful and high qualified doctorate is based on good mentoring and support. Scholarship holders are supervised by one CRC member in addition to the member in whose laboratory the experimental work is carried out.

All PhD students working in the different research projects of the CRC877 and having thesis projects with focus on the physiological function of proteases as regulatory molecules are members of the IRTG. The IRTG offer a platform for intensive scientific exchange between young scientists and excellent training.

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http://www.uni-kiel.de/Biochemie/sfb877/irtg/