

**Institutions participating in RESIST:**



**Institutions cooperating with RESIST:**



**The Cluster of Excellence RESIST**

RESIST is made up of around 60 interdisciplinary teams, combining clinical and scientific research in a unique way. The German Research Foundation (DFG) has been funding RESIST with 32 million euros for seven years since 2019.



“At the heart of RESIST are the patients. We want to help them more effectively – by closely integrating cutting-edge basic research and clinical science.”

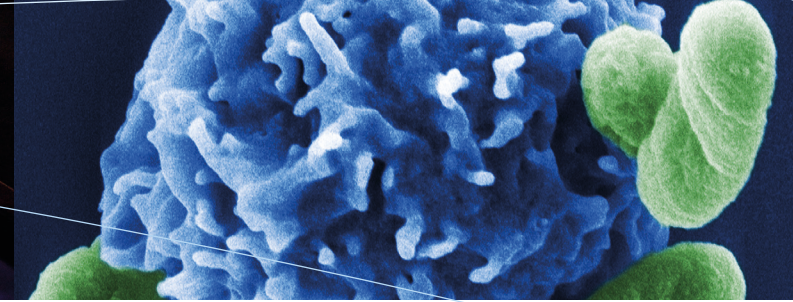
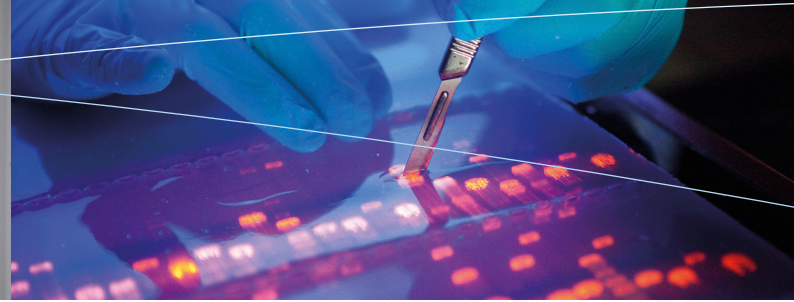
RESIST Speaker: Professor Dr. Reinhold Förster

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**RESIST**  
Research to help  
the most vulnerable





## Excellent science for people who are particularly susceptible to infections

Why do some people only fall slightly ill when they 'catch' viruses or bacteria, while others suffer severe or even life-threatening illnesses? The research in our Cluster of Excellence RESIST revolves around this question.

We want to protect people who are particularly susceptible to infections. These include newborn babies, senior citizens and people with a congenital immunodeficiency.

Our aim is to save them from infection or a severe course of the disease – by providing better treatments, diagnoses and preventive measures.

## What role do genes and the immune system play in susceptibility to infection?

We work in the laboratory and in the clinic. This enables us to study viruses and bacteria down to the smallest detail as well as the human immune system and genes. We are particularly interested in the interactions between the body and the pathogens.

If the immune system is unable to defend itself against viruses and bacteria, vaccinations and medication are important. Our research results help to develop these. We have already discovered various starting points for the treatment of diseases.

## How do bacteria and viruses manage to stay in the body?

Some bacteria and viruses literally nest in humans. They live permanently in the lungs, liver or on implants, for example. Such chronic infections are a major problem.

Herpes viruses, for example, can survive in nerve cells. This is why an infection with the varicella zoster virus initially causes chickenpox and can lead to shingles later in life.

As the RESIST team, we are researching how the pathogens manage to survive in the body. In this way, we want to ensure that this can be prevented or treated more effectively.