

Name:

Dr. phil. nat. Robert Hänsel-Hertsch

Institute, main affiliation:

Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne

Research field:

Genome Biology

Funding / grant(s):

- CMMC
- DFG/SFB1399

Last two research positions:

(position, time period, lab or PI, research institute, Country)

1. Postdoc, 2013-2019, Sir Prof. Shankar Balasubramanian, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, UK
2. PhD, 2009-2013, Prof. Volker Dötsch, University of Frankfurt, Germany

What do you think were the major milestones in your career that led to your position as group leader (e.g. could be motivations, publications, coincidences, "right" field of science, network)?

- The trust of my PhD supervisor in my capabilities as a 4th semester intern, being responsible for my own research project, really unleashed my passion for science. Not the theory, not the lectures, not the perspective... . By the time of the start of my diploma thesis work, I already had a high-impact story at hand, which really kicked off all the following successes.
- A committing hard-working attitude was certainly key in my scientific endeavor.
- Thinking big, not incremental is a phrase that pretty much describes the attitude of many successful labs. During my Postdoc time in a very competitive lab I learned how to question and shape my thinking. An idea is only as good as it stands up to criticism.
- Accepting early on that being scientist is a privilege not a job.

