Open Position:	**Postdoctoral Research Associate (f/m/d)**
Research project:	**Bioinformatics of marine transmissible cancers**
Project start date:	**Flexible between October 2025 and February 2026**

Keywords

Transmissible cancers - Marine biology - Immunology - Microbiome / Metagenomics - Genomics / Transcriptomics - Multi-omics integration – Bioinformatics - Evolution - Long-read sequencing - Host–microbe interactions - Postdoc

The Department of Symbiosis in Bremen, Germany is seeking a highly motivated **postdoctoral researcher** to work in the research line of **Dr Alicia L Bruzos** investigating **marine transmissible cancers**.

Background

The Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology (MPI-MM), founded in 1992 and located on the campus of the University of Bremen (Germany), is part of the Biology & Medical Section of the Max Planck Society. Its core research focuses on the diversity and functions of marine microorganisms and their interactions with the marine environment.

The institute comprises three major departments — Symbiosis (led by Nicole Dubilier), Molecular Ecology (Rudolf Amann), and Biogeochemistry (Marcel Kuypers) — each with several research groups and associated projects, which together span disciplines from field research and expedition work, through laboratory-based molecular and metabolic studies, up to bioinformatic approaches.

The Institute, with its approximately 190 employees, is located in Bremen (Germany), a dynamic university city in northern Germany. The city is home to a vibrant research community, with 4 universities and around 50 research institutes in fields ranging from marine sciences to aerospace engineering. The city's strong focus on innovation and its international academic environment make it an attractive destination for researchers.

Your profile

The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, passionate about cancer evolution, microbiome and marine bivalves, and willing to learn, develop and apply state-of-the-art computational approaches. They will hold a PhD in a relevant subject, have a solid computational background, and be able to curate, analyse and interpret multi-omics data sets (*i.e.,* genomics, transcriptomics, metagenomics, and environmental data integration). Experience in microbial ecology, cancer genomics, or marine biology is an asset but not a prerequisite for the position. The successful candidate should demonstrate collaborative skills, and a proven ability to manage complex datasets and contribute to manuscript preparation.

A good command of English, both written and spoken, is essential for effective communication in our international research environment.

Our offer

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to learn and apply methods to integrate multi-omics sequencing data of transmissible cancers in bivalves; develop new methods to determine links between transmissible cancers and the bivalve microbiome; and eventually participate in field trips, wet lab work and interact with international experts in molecular genetics, symbiosis, cancer evolution, and comparative genomics.

We offer a fully funded 2-year research position with no teaching obligations. It will include access to high-performance computing resources, and opportunities for international training and conference participation. The working language of the group is English; knowledge of German is not required, but free German language courses are available through the institute.

Remuneration and social benefits are based on the German Civil Service Collective Agreement (TVöD Bund), pay category 13/14 (entry level depending on prior experience; https://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/tvoed/bund/). The salary includes all mandatory social insurance contributions for health care, long-term care, unemployment, and retirement. The initial contract is a fixed-term appointment for two years with the possibility of an extension by another year subject to future funding acquisition. Starting date is flexible. The place of employment is Bremen (Germany). The Max Planck Society is committed to ensuring the compatibility of family and career and can offer flexible working arrangements, including remote work. Generous opportunities for personal and career development are provided, including free in-house German language courses.

Your application

If you are interested in this position, we look forward to receiving your online application through the Max Planck recruitment website:

https://career.mpi-bremen.de/jobposting/a5697cec59a833bded496aa2af72837c6877acc60

Please submit a copy of your CV and contact details of at least one (former or current) professional supervisor willing to provide a reference.

Closing date for applications: **16 November 2025**. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and interviews may be scheduled before the deadline. Please feel free to contact Dr Alicia L Bruzos for informal enquires about the position.

Further information

You can visit our institute website at www.mpi-bremen.de or Bruzos website at https://albruzos.github.io.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Equal opportunity statement: The Max Planck Society is committed to diversity and equal opportunities. We explicitly encourage applications from individuals regardless of gender, age, disability status, family situation, sexual orientation, nationality, or cultural background.

Data privacy: Personal data will be processed exclusively for the purpose of the selection procedure in accordance with applicable data protection regulations.