

SUWALA, KORA ABIGAIL, DR. MED.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Emmy-Noether-Junior Research Group Leader and Consultant
Department of Neuropathology, University Hospital Heidelberg
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Email: Abigail.Suwala@med.uni-heidelberg.de
Tel: +49 6221 56 37884
●DOB: 18.07.1992 ●Sex: Female ●Nationality: German
Familial Obligations: none

ACADEMIC EDUCATION & QUALIFICATION

| Year(s) | Education |
|-----------------|---|
| 10/2011-12/2018 | Medical studies in Düsseldorf, Zürich, Accra and Montevideo |

ACADEMIC EDUCATION & QUALIFICATION

| Year(s) | Education |
|-----------------|--|
| 04/2014-07/2019 | Doctoral student at the Heinrich-Heine-Universität in Düsseldorf and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA (6 months research stay) (Dr. med.) Thesis: "Targeted glioma stem cells depletion through pharmacological WNT inhibition as a novel therapy for malignant brain tumors" |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

| Year(s) | Experience |
|-----------------|---|
| Since 10/2025 | Consultant, Department of Neuropathology, University Hospital Heidelberg |
| Since 05/2024 | Emmy-Noether-Research Group Leader, Department of Neuropathology, University Hospital Heidelberg |
| 02/2021-01/2023 | Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Neurosurgery, UCSF, San Francisco, USA (Supervisor: Prof. Joe Costello, PhD) |
| 01/2019-09/2025 | Resident, Department of Neuropathology, University Hospital Heidelberg |
| Since 01/2019 | Clinical Scientist, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg |

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS/ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

| Year(s) | Qualifications/Roles/Responsibilities |
|-------------|--|
| 2025 | Paul-Keihues Award for Neurooncology |
| Since 2025 | Member of the Sabrina Kaiser Consortium for Astrocytoma Research |
| 2025-2028 | Else Kröner Memorial Fellowship |
| Since 2024 | Associate Editor for Neuro-Oncology Practice |
| Since 2024 | Member of Cancer Grand Challenges, PROTECT, PATZ1 group |
| 2024 | Sibylle Assmus Award for Neuro-Oncology |
| 2023-2027 | Fellowship Hertie Network of Excellence in Clinical Neuroscience |
| 2021-2023 | Mildred Scheel PostDoc Scholarship, German Cancer Aid |
| Since 2021 | Member of the EORTC Brain Tumor Group Translational Research Committee |
| 2021 - 2024 | Member of the EORTC Brain Tumor Group Steering Committee |

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Ippen FM, Hielscher T, Friedel D, Gobel K, Reuss D, Herold-Mende C, Krieg S, Deimling AV, Wick W, Sahm F, Suwala AK. The Prognostic Impact of Cdkn2a/B Hemizygous Deletions in Idh-Mutant Glioma. **Neuro Oncol.** 2024 Nov 12.

2. Hinz F, Friedel D, Korshunov A, Ippen FM, Bogumil H, Banan R, Brandner S, Hasselblatt M, Boldt HB, Dirse V, Dohmen H, Aronica E, Brodhun M, Broekman MLD, Capper D, Cherkezov A, Deng MY, van Dis V, Felsberg J, Frank S, French PJ, Gerlach R, Gobel K, Goold E, Hench J, Kantelhardt S, Kohlhof-Meinecke P, Krieg S, Mawrin C, Morrison G, Muhlebner A, Ozduman K, Pfister SM, Poliani PL, Prinz M, Reifenberger G, Riemenschneider MJ, Sankowski R, Schrimpf D, Sill M, Snuderl M, Verdijk RM, Voisin MR, Wesseling P, Wick W, Reuss DE, von Deimling A, Sahm F, Maas SLN*, Suwala AK*. IDH-mutant astrocytomas with primitive neuronal component have a distinct methylation profile and a higher risk of leptomeningeal spread. **Acta Neuropathol**. 2025 Feb 3;149(1):12. *equal contribution.
3. Suwala AK, Stichel D, Schrimpf D, Kloor M, Wefers AK, Reinhardt A, Maas SLN, Kratz CP, Schweizer L, Hasselblatt M, Snuderl M, Abedalthagafi MSJ, Abdullaev Z, Monoranu CM, Bergmann M, Pekrun A, Freyschlag C, Aronica E, Kramm CM, Hinz F, Sievers P, Korshunov A, Kool M, Pfister SM, Sturm D, Jones DTW, Wick W, Unterberg A, Hartmann C, Dodgshun A, Tabori U, Wesseling P, Sahm F, von Deimling A, Reuss DE. Primary mismatch repair deficient IDH-mutant astrocytoma (PMMRDIA) is a distinct type with a poor prognosis. **Acta Neuropathol**. 2021 Jan;141(1):85-100.
4. Suwala AK, Felix M, Friedel D, Stichel D, Schrimpf D, Hinz F, Hewer E, Schweizer L, Dohmen H, Pohl U, Staszewski O, Korshunov A, Stein M, Wongsurawat T, Cheunsuacchon P, Sathornsumetee S, Koelsche C, Turner C, Le Rhun E, Muhlebner A, Schucht P, Özdoğan K, Ono T, Shimizu H, Prinz M, Acker T, Herold-Mende C, Kessler T, Wick W, Capper D, Wesseling P, Sahm F, von Deimling A, Hartmann C, Reuss DE. Oligosarcomas, IDH-mutant are distinct and aggressive. **Acta Neuropathol**. 2022 Feb;143(2):263-281.
5. Suwala AK, Stichel D, Schrimpf D, Maas SLN, Sill M, Dohmen H, Banan R, Reinhardt A, Sievers P, Hinz F, Blattner-Johnson M, Hartmann C, Schweizer L, Boldt HB, Kristensen BW, Schittenhelm J, Wood MD, Chotard G, Bjergvig R, Das A, Tabori U, Hasselblatt M, Korshunov A, Abdullaev Z, Quezado M, Aldape K, Harter PN, Snuderl M, Hench J, Frank S, Acker T, Brandner S, Winkler F, Wesseling P, Pfister SM, Reuss DE, Wick W, von Deimling A, Jones DTW, Sahm F. Glioblastomas with primitive neuronal component harbor a distinct methylation and copy-number profile with inactivation of TP53, PTEN, and RB1. **Acta Neuropathol**. 2021 Jul;142(1):179-189.
6. Barger CJ*, Suwala AK*, Soczek KM, Wang AS, Kim MY, Hong C, Doudna JA, Chang SM, Phillips JJ, Solomon DA, Costello JF. Conserved features of TERT promoter duplications reveal an activation mechanism that mimics hotspot mutations in cancer. **Nat Commun**. 2022 Sep 16;13(1):5430. *equal contribution.
7. Suwala AK, Koch K, Rios DH, Aretz P, Uhlmann C, Ogorek I, Felsberg J, Reifenberger G, Köhrer K, Deenen R, Steiger HJ, Kahlert UD, Maciaczyk J. Inhibition of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling downregulates expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase isoform 3A1 (ALDH3A1) to reduce resistance against temozolomide in glioblastoma in vitro. **Oncotarget**. 2018 Apr 27;9(32):22703-22716.
8. Kahlert UD*, Suwala AK*, Koch K, Natsumeda M, Orr BA, Hayashi M, Maciaczyk J, Eberhart CG. Pharmacologic Wnt Inhibition Reduces Proliferation, Survival, and Clonogenicity of Glioblastoma Cells. **J Neuropathol Exp Neurol**. 2015 Sep;74(9):889-900. *equal contribution.
9. Suwala AK, Hanaford A, Kahlert UD, Maciaczyk J. Clipping the Wings of Glioblastoma: Modulation of WNT as a Novel Therapeutic Strategy. **J Neuropathol Exp Neurol**. 2016 May;75(5):388-396.
10. Tetzlaff SK, Reyhan E, Layer N, Bengtson CP, Heuer A, Schroers J, Faymonville AJ, Langeroudi AP, Drewa N, Keifert E, Wagner J, Soyka SJ, Schubert MC, Sivapalan N, Pramatarov RL, Buchert V, Wageringel T, Grabis E, Wissmann N, Alhalabi OT, Botz M, Bojcewski J, Campos J, Boztepe B, Scheck JG, Conic SH, Puschhof MC, Villa G, Drexler R, Zghaibeh Y, Hausmann F, Hanzelmann S, Karreman MA, Kurz FT, Schroter M, Thier M, Suwala AK, Forsberg-Nilsson K, Acuna C, Saez-Rodriguez J, Abdollahi A, Sahm F, Breckwoldt MO, Suchorska B, Ricklefs FL, Heiland DH, Venkataramani V. Characterizing and Targeting Glioblastoma Neuron-Tumor Networks with Retrograde Tracing. **Cell**. 2025 Jan 23;188(2):390-411.

PATENTS