



# Opening for Postdoctoral Candidate in Viral Oncology at Duke University

A postdoctoral position in **Viral Oncology** is available to study B cell transformation by Epstein-Barr virus in the laboratory of Dr. Micah Luftig at Duke University School of Medicine (<https://mgm.duke.edu/faculty-and-research/primary-faculty/micah-luftig-phd/>).

EBV transformation of human B cells relies on co-option of B cell intrinsic signaling pathways and transcriptional networks. In response to viral-driven proliferative signals, the host cell responds with activation of innate tumor suppressor responses. The balance of these programs dictates the ability of the virus to drive B cell proliferation, establish latency, and cause tumors in the immune suppressed.

*In vivo*, EBV latency establishment is thought to be coupled with B cell maturation. Mechanistically, little is known about how the virus promotes B cell maturation through mimicry of the germinal center reaction or whether EBV infects B cells as they mature during normal humoral immune responses. The interplay between viral infection, normal B cell biology, and activation of signaling pathways that promote and restrict proliferation are studied in the laboratory using the following models:

- Primary human peripheral blood and tonsillar B cell infection
- EBV-transformed lymphoblastoid cell lines and lymphoma cell lines
- EBV latency establishment and tumorigenesis in NSG/CD34+ and BLT humanized mouse

The successful candidate for this position will be a motivated and well-trained Ph.D. in cancer biology, virology, or immunology preferably with a background in cell signaling, lymphocyte biology, or viral genetics. This candidate will be eager to work in a robust academic environment helping to train graduate students and undergraduates while **making important fundamental contributions to the study of B cell lymphomagenesis and EBV biology**.

Applicants are invited to send their curriculum vitae, summary of past work, and contact information for three references to Dr. Micah Luftig. (E-mail: [micah.luftig@duke.edu](mailto:micah.luftig@duke.edu)).

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