



## Understanding Immune Diseases

The immune system has an incredible potency for damage, needed to combat infections. This makes the myriad of immune tolerance checkpoints vital – failure to keep the immune system under control leads to immune diseases such as autoimmunity, inflammatory diseases or allergies. The mechanisms of immune tolerance can be studied in patients where the regulatory checkpoints have failed, with primary immunodeficiencies being particularly revealing due to the single mutation basis of most cases.

My laboratory studies the genetic basis of immune disease through a multi-disciplinary approach that assesses the entire cascade of events leading to disease. We use genetic approaches to identify new mutations causing primary immunodeficiencies, cellular and biochemical immunology approaches to determine the impact of these mutations on the tolerance checkpoints, and disease modelling approaches to study the process of tissue destruction that leads to pathology. Our mission is to identify the most sensitive intervention point in the disease pathway for the development of effective therapeutics.

»The 2016 Eppendorf Award is a great recognition of the work done by all of the amazing people in my team. I see this prize as a validation of our philosophy to keep a broad perspective of immune diseases rather than focusing in on a single pathway or technique.«

**Adrian Liston, Winner 2016 of the Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators**

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Winner 2016  
Adrian Liston,  
Belgium

# Adrian Liston Eppendorf Young Investigator 2016

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