



Dr. Bernardo S. Franklin

For me it is a great pleasure to report on my experience in this fantastic academic environment that is the University of Bonn, and the wonderful city I had the opportunity to live in. Beyond my fascination for basic science and research I have always enjoyed being in an academia, which was my initial motivation for applying to work in a university environment.

The University of Bonn has been a determining factor in my career path. I had twice the opportunity to choose the University of Bonn for my scientific trajectory. First in 2011, with an offer to do a post-doctoral training at the University of Massachusetts, where I had done part of my doctorate, I decided for Germany, and the University of Bonn. I joined the Institute of Innate Immunity in 2011 as a post-doctoral fellow supported by a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. At the University of Bonn I encountered a very vivid and challenging scientific environment loaded with expertise and cultural backgrounds that arises from a mixture of international research staff. At the Uni-Bonn I met renowned scientists of several disciplines and had the opportunity to work together, interact, collaborate and learn from them. One of my previous supervisors used to say: "There is nothing like having lunch everyday with someone who inspires you or is better than you at something". At the Uni-Bonn one happens to find just that.

Equally important, at the Uni-Bonn I also found a very supportive scenery for young investigators. The university offers seed funding programs, such as the BONFOR, for young group leaders, which provides opportunities for young investigators to achieve their first independent research grant. Moreover, both the government (through the DFG) and other funding agencies (such as the Alexander von Humboldt, the DAAD, the Volkswagen Stiftung and others) offers a variety of funding schemes directed to young investigators to help them conquer their scientific independency.

Again, in 2017 I had the opportunity to choose the Uni-Bonn. After receiving offers from the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencias in Portugal, and from the Universities of Lübeck and Munich (LMU) in Germany, I decided that again the Uni-Bonn would be the best place to build my new ERC-funded research group. This was a decision that I do not regret, and I believe I would happily make this decision a third time, if necessary. I now hold a W2 Tenure-Track Professorship position, which will help to solidify my independency and provide a strong support a future application for continuing funding and producing high quality research.

For me is a great honor to be part of this renowned University which has been in the forefront of knowledge for the las 200 years.

Foto: Bruna Guerra