



**Project description**

**Introduction:** The prevalence of overweight has been increasing worldwide, and it has been shown that foods with a high fat or sugar content are preferred by obese people. Gustation, the sense of taste, is one of the most important parameters for the choice of food. The taste perception is mediated via taste buds, which represent the actual taste organs. Recent studies have indicated that taste function in obese individuals is disturbed, and that obesity directly impairs taste buds. In addition, studies show that the taste perception is decreasing during aging.

**Aim:** To investigate how the markers for taste function are altered during aging with individuals on a Western, high-fat, diet. Therefore, a mouse study has been carried out.

**Methods:** mouse tissue preparation and RNA isolation, cDNA microarray, gene expression analysis (qPCR), tissue staining and morphological analysis, statistical analyses

**Expected duration:** 3 or 6 months, depending whether it will be an internship or a Master's thesis project

We would like to start the project in October 2022. Please send a letter of motivation and CV to Univ. Prof. Barbara Lieder (firstname.lastname@univie.ac.at), by the 1st of August.

Link to the website: <https://ipc.univie.ac.at/en/research/taste-research/>