

# Kyra Zens PhD MPH

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Institute for Experimental Immunology  
Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute  
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<https://scholar.google.ch/citations?hl=en&user=YqrkGzMAAAAJ>

## Education

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- 08/2012 – 04/2017      **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**  
**Columbia University**  
Advisor: Donna Farber  
Dissertation: Generation of T cell Responses and Immunological Memory Following Influenza Infection and Vaccination in Early Life and Adulthood
- 08/2009 – 05/2011      **Master of Public Health (MPH)**  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
Concentration: Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology
- 08/2004 – 05/2009      **Bachelor of Science (BS)**  
**Washington State University**  
Concentration: Genetics and Cell Biology  
Concentration: Biotechnology

## Work Experience

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- 09/2023 – Present      **Senior Research Assistant**  
**University of Zurich**  
Institute for Experimental Immunology  
Advisor: Christian Münz  
Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute  
Advisor: Jan Fehr
- 09/2017 – 08/2023      **Postdoctoral Researcher**  
**University of Zurich**  
Institute for Experimental Immunology  
Advisor: Christian Münz  
Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute  
Advisor: Jan Fehr
- 07/2013 – 04/2017      **Doctoral Student**  
**Columbia University**  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
Advisor: Donna Farber
- 05/2011 – 05/2012      **Research Associate**  
**University of California, Berkeley**

Department of Public Health  
Advisor: Daniel Portnoy

03/2007 – 06/2009

**Research Associate**  
**Bristol-Myers Squibb**  
Platform Development Department  
Supervisor: Heidi Leblanc

## Current Research

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- Since 2023 **Assessment of Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE) Vaccine Effectiveness in Children in Switzerland**
- Since 2022 **Immunity in Persons Fully Vaccinated Against Measles, Mumps and Rubella and Responses to Booster Vaccination**
- <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05894395>
- <https://kofam.ch/en/snctp-portal/searching-for-a-clinical-trial/study/63864>
- Since 2022 **Assessment of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Coverage in Swiss Adults**
- Since 2020 **Analysis of Serological and Cell-Mediated Immune Responses to Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE) Vaccination and Assessment of Vaccine Effectiveness in Swiss Adults**
- Since 2020 **Evaluation of T cell-Mediated Immunity During SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Vaccination**
- [https://www.ebpi.uzh.ch/en/translational\\_research/community\\_and\\_health/zurich\\_coronavirus\\_cohort.html](https://www.ebpi.uzh.ch/en/translational_research/community_and_health/zurich_coronavirus_cohort.html)
- [https://www.ebpi.uzh.ch/en/translational\\_research/community\\_and\\_health/zurich\\_sars\\_cov2\\_vaccine\\_cohort\\_zvac.html](https://www.ebpi.uzh.ch/en/translational_research/community_and_health/zurich_sars_cov2_vaccine_cohort_zvac.html)
- Since 2017 **Determining the Role of Tissue Resident Memory T cells in Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) Infection**

## Invited Talks

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- 2023  
Vienna, AT **International Symposium on Tick-Borne Pathogens and Disease (ITPD)**  
Tick-borne Encephalitis Vaccination Coverage, Vaccine Effectiveness, and Disease Severity in Children in Switzerland 2005-2022.
- 2023  
Zurich, CH **Public Health Zurich Seminar Series**  
Tick-borne Encephalitis: Disease, Vaccination, and Vaccine Effectiveness in Switzerland.

2023 Copenhagen, NL	<b>European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID)</b> What, Where, and Who: The Changing Epidemiology of Tick-Borne Disease.
2022 Vienna, AT	<b>International Scientific Working Group on Tick-borne Encephalitis (ISW-TBE)</b> Tick-borne Encephalitis Vaccination and Vaccine Effectiveness in Switzerland.
2020 Digital	<b>International Scientific Working Group on Tick-borne Encephalitis (ISW-TBE)</b> Tick-borne Encephalitis Epidemiology, Disease and Vaccination in Switzerland.
2017 Memphis, TN	<b>St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium</b> Lung-Resident T cell Memory in Infants Following Influenza Infection and Vaccination.
2016 Hannover, DE	<b>Herrenhausen Conference: The Window of Opportunity, Early Priming for Life</b> Lung- Resident T cell Memory in Infants Following Influenza Infection and Vaccination.
2016 Seattle, WA	<b>American Association of Immunologists (AAI)</b> Vaccine-Generated Lung Tissue- Resident Memory T cells Provide Heterosubtypic Protection to Influenza Infection.
2016 Seattle, WA	<b>American Association of Immunologists (AAI)</b> Reduced Lung-Resident T cell Memory in Infants Following Influenza Infection.

## **Awards/Fellowships**

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10/2021 – 10/2022	<b>University of Zurich</b> Forschungskredit Postdoc
10/2021	<b>Gottfried und Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Stiftung</b> Award
05/2021	<b>Swiss Life Jubiläumsstiftung</b> Award
03/2017	<b>St. Jude Children's Hospital</b> National Graduate Student Symposium Award
12/2016	<b>Volkswagen Foundation</b> Young Investigator Award
05/2016	<b>American Association of Immunologists</b> Trainee Abstract Award
07/2014 – 07/2016	<b>Columbia University</b> T32 Departmental Fellowship Award
03/2010 – 05/2011	<b>University of California, Berkeley</b> Academic Scholarship