Postdoctoral Position in Protist–Giant Virus Interactions

MPG–WIS Joint Postdoctoral Program

MPI for Marine Microbiology, Germany & Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS), Israel

We invite applications for an exciting postdoctoral opportunity through the **Max Planck Society (MPG)–Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) Joint Postdoctoral Program**, jointly hosted by **Prof. Assaf Vardi** at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and **Dr. Matthias Fischer** at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany.

Research Project

The successful candidate will investigate interactions between unicellular eukaryotes (protists) and giant DNA viruses in unique ecosystem of Alpine lakes, with a major focus on single-cell omics approaches and *in situ* interactions. The project aims to advance our understanding of how such interactions shape microbial communities and influence eco-evolutionary processes in natural environments including discovery of unknown defense systems against giant viruses.

We welcome candidates interested in microbial ecology, environmental virology, protist biology and biochemistry, host–virus interactions and environmental omics. Applicants with experience in molecular biology, microbiology, computational genomics, or other relevant approaches are encouraged to apply.

The MPG–WIS Joint Postdoctoral Program

The program offers a unique **four-year postdoctoral opportunity**, comprising two years at a Max Planck Institute and two years at the Weizmann Institute of Science. It supports outstanding early-career researchers pursuing innovative, collaborative research across the two institutions.

During the Max Planck Institute appointment, fellows receive a German salary based on experience, with annual salary levels of approximately €67,311 or €72,800, including benefits. During the Weizmann Institute appointment, fellows receive an annual tax-exempt fellowship of approximately 212,088 or 220,920 NIS, depending on level, as well as family health insurance, relocation support, and subsidized housing.

Eligibility and Application

Applicants must commence the program within four years of completing their PhD or MD.

For full program details, eligibility requirements, participating institutes, and application instructions, visit the MPG–WIS Joint Postdoctoral Program website.

To submit your expression of interest, please send your CV, letter of intent, and the names of two references to Drs. Fischer and Vardi (email addresses below) **no later than Dec 1, 2026**.

We look forward to hearing from motivated researchers eager to explore the enigmatic world of giant DNA viruses and their roles in protist ecology!

Contacts and further information

Vardi group:
www.weizmann.ac.il/plants/vardi
assaf.vardi@weizmann.ac.il

Fischer group:
www.mpi-bremen.de/en/Research-Group-Protist-Virology.html
mfischer@mpi-bremen.de