

## Agne Bubilaite

Management of autoimmune blistering diseases associated with mucous involvement and malignancies based on gained experience of novel indirect immunofluorescence method

<b>Short Bio</b>	I am a resident doctor, working at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LUHS) Kaunas Clinics, Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases and pursuing my career in dermatovenereology.
<b>Home Institution</b>	Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Hospital Kaunas Clinics
<b>Host Institution</b>	University of Lübeck, Dermatology department
<b>Project description</b>	Mucous membrane pemphigoid (MMP) encompasses a group of autoimmune bullous diseases with a similar phenotype characterized by subepithelial blisters, erosions, and scarring of mucous membranes, skin, or both. The main target antigen in MMP is BP180, but it is also important to mention laminin 332, because the detection of anti-laminin 332 antibodies is associated with development of malignancies in around 25% of the MMP-patients. Indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) assays based on the BIOCHIP® mosaic technology are one of the diagnostic methods to detect circulating autoantibodies of different tissue substrates with high sensitivity and specificity. The aim of the internship is to gain complex knowledge about management of autoimmune blistering diseases (AIBD) and to apply novel methods of indirect immunofluorescence based assays with BIOCHIP® mosaic technology. Routine inclusion of BIOCHIP® testing might optimize the diagnosis of anti-laminin 332 pemphigoid and add a novel approach in complex diagnosis of other AIBD, such as pemphigus vulgaris (PV) or pemphigus foliaceus (PF), thus leading to improvement in AIBD management.
<b>Personal statement</b>	It is said that if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. I strongly believe that working together with a team of excellent researchers will allow me to develop not only as a researcher myself, but also as a personality and as a physician in training. The newly acquired skills and knowledge will contribute to introduction of IIF based assays in my home institution where such assays are not currently performed. Moreover, the adopted diagnostic methods in host institution will be used for a joint study of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LUHS) and the Department of Dermatology, University of Lübeck (host institution). This internship will benefit the home and the host institutions with sincere collaboration that would be beneficial not only in future joint research work, but in everyday clinical practice too.