

# Tino Pleiner, PhD

■ California Institute of Technology, 91125 Pasadena, CA, USA ■ pleiner@caltech.edu

---

## Education

04/2012-05/2016 **Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany**  
Ph.D. *summa cum laude* in Molecular Biology  
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Dirk Görlich

09/2010-03/2012 **Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany**  
M.Sc. in Molecular Biology, Grade: A  
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Dirk Görlich

10/2007-08/2010 **University of Leipzig, Germany**  
B.Sc. with Honors in Biochemistry, Grade: A (1.2)  
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Mario Mörl

## Research experience

11/2017- present **California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, USA.**  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Advisor: Rebecca M. Voorhees, Ph.D.

- Gained mechanistic and structural insights into membrane protein biogenesis by the essential insertase ‘ER membrane protein complex’ (EMC)
- Solved first structure ever of the nine-subunit human EMC by cryo-EM in collaboration with other lab members
- Revealed first insights into EMC function with cell-based reporter assays
- Demonstrated that EMC assembly is highly regulated in human cells and requires the essential stress-responsive kinase WNK1 as an assembly factor

04/2012-10/2017 **Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany.**  
Ph.D. *summa cum laude*, Advisor: Dr. Dirk Görlich

- Established an academic facility for rapid nanobody discovery from alpacas
- Developed site-specific fluorescent labeling strategy for nanobodies and used them as ultra-small immunolabels for super-resolution microscopy
- Generated freely available toolbox of bright ‘secondary nanobodies’ against mouse and rabbit IgG that rival the signal amplification effect of conventional polyclonal antibodies
- Established single-step strategy to natively purify endogenous protein complexes in high yield and purity e.g. for cryo-EM
- Used nanobodies as intracellular inhibitors of nucleocytoplasmic transport

09/2011-03/2012 **Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany.**  
M.Sc. Student, Advisor: Dr. Dirk Görlich

- Functional analysis of nuclear pore complex permeability in the *Xenopus* egg extract-based nuclear reconstitution system using confocal microscopy

# Tino Pleiner, PhD

■ California Institute of Technology, 91125 Pasadena, CA, USA ■ pleiner@caltech.edu

---

## Awards and Fellowships

07/2019-09/2021 Fellowship of the German research foundation (DFG)  
10/2018 Animal welfare prize by German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture  
06/2018-06/2019 Caltech Ross fellowship  
09/2016 Poster prize at the '13th Horizons in Molecular Biology Symposium'  
07/2014 Selected participant of the '64th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting',  
nominated by Göttingen Graduate School GGNB  
09/2010-09/2011 International Max Planck Research School support  
12/2010 Study prize for best B.Sc. Biochemistry degree, University of Leipzig  
07/2009-03/2012 Fellowship of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation  
(Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

## Publications

(\*denotes equal contribution co-first- and † denotes co-corresponding authorship)

Original peer-reviewed research publications (8):

**Pleiner, T.**; Hazu, M.; Pinton Tomaleri, G.; Januszyk, K.; Oania, R.S.; Sweredoski, M.J.; Moradian, A.; Guna, A.; Voorhees, R.M. (2021) WNK1 is an assembly factor for the human ER membrane protein complex. *Mol. Cell*, 81, 2693-2704.e12.

**Pleiner, T.\***; Pinton Tomaleri, G.\*; Januszyk, K.\*; Inglis, A.J.; Hazu, M.; Voorhees, R.M. (2020) Structural basis for membrane insertion by the human ER membrane protein complex. *Science* 369(6502):433-436.

Aksu, M.\*; **Pleiner, T.\***; Karaca, S.; Kappert, C.; Dehne, H.J.; Seibel, K.; Urlaub, H.; Bohnsack, M.; Görlich, D. (2018) Xpo7 is a broad-spectrum exportin and a nuclear import receptor. *J. Cell Biol.* 217, 1143-1154.

**Pleiner, T.†**; Bates, M.†; Görlich, D.† (2018) A toolbox of anti-mouse and anti-rabbit IgG secondary nanobodies. *J. Cell Biol.* 217(3):1143-1154.

Göttfert, F.; **Pleiner, T.**; Heine, J.; Westphal, V.; Görlich, D.; Sahl, S.; Hell, S. (2017) Strong signal increase in STED fluorescence microscopy by imaging regions of subdiffraction extent. *PNAS*. 114(9):2125-2130. - *Contributed novel analytical tools and samples for analysis, prepared figures and critically revised manuscript.*

**Pleiner, T.**; Bates, M.; Trakhanov, S.; Lee, C.T.; Schliep, J. E.; Chug, H.; Böhning, M.; Stark, H.; Urlaub, H.; Görlich, D. (2015) Nanobodies: site-specific labeling for super-resolution imaging, rapid epitope-mapping and native protein complex isolation. *eLife*. 4; e11349.

Chug, H.; Trakhanov, S.; Hülsmann, B.; **Pleiner, T.**; Görlich, D. (2015) Crystal structure of the metazoan Nup62-Nup58-Nup54 nucleoporin complex. *Science*. 350(6256): 106-10.

Migliorini, E.; Thakar, D.; Sadir, R.; **Pleiner, T.**; Baleux, F.; Lortat-Jacob, H.; Coche-Guerente, L.; Richter, R.P. (2014) Well-defined biomimetic surfaces to characterize glycosaminoglycan-mediated interactions on the molecular, supramolecular and cellular levels. *Biomaterials*. 35(32):8903-15.

# Tino Pleiner, PhD

■ California Institute of Technology, 91125 Pasadena, CA, USA ■ pleiner@caltech.edu

---

## Presentations

- 07/23/2012 **20th Jerusalem School in Life Sciences, Jerusalem, Israel.**  
‘Nuclear organization, dynamics and activity’; Poster presentation.
- 11/04/2013 **PEGS Europe, Protein and antibody engineering summit, Lisbon, Portugal.**  
Poster presentation.
- 06/24/2015 **Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany.**  
Campus seminar. Invited talk.
- 09/15/2015 **12th Horizons in Molecular Biology, Göttingen, Germany.**  
Poster presentation.
- 03/31/2016 **67th Mosbach colloquium on Protein Design, Mosbach, Germany.**  
Poster presentation.
- 09/11/2016 **The EMBO Meeting 2016, Mannheim, Germany.**  
Poster presentation.
- 09/13/2016 **13th Horizons in Molecular Biology, Göttingen, Germany.**  
Poster presentation. Best poster prize.
- 12/04/2016 **ASCB annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA.**  
Poster presentation.
- 04/10/2017 **MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology (LMB) Cambridge, UK.**  
Invited talk.
- 09/28/2018 **California Institute of Technology. Division of Biology and Biological Engineering (BBE) Retreat.** Long Beach, CA, USA. Selected talk.
- 10/11/2018 **Animal welfare prize award ceremony. Federal Institute for Risk Assessment,** Berlin, Germany. Invited talk.
- 06/19/2020 **ASBMB Lipid Research Division Seminar Series.**  
Virtual. Invited talk.
- 08/19/2020 **California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, USA.**  
Summer Postdoc Seminar Series. Virtual. Invited talk.
- 03/16/2021 **Membrane Translocation II: The ER and bacterial inner membrane.**  
Virtual conference. Invited talk.
- 06/23/2021 **FASEB Science Research Conference (SRC) - The Endoplasmic Reticulum.**  
Virtual. Selected talk.
- 07/19/2021 **Gordon Conference - Molecular Membrane Organization.**  
Virtual. Selected talk.
- 08/12/2021 **University of Regensburg, Germany. SFB960 /RCB colloquium.**  
Virtual. Invited talk.
- 11/05/2021 **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Heidelberg, Germany.**  
Invited talk.
- 11/12/2021 **European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Heidelberg, Germany.**  
Invited talk.
- 11/22/2021 **Freie Universität (FU) Berlin, Germany.**  
Invited talk.
- 02/09/2022 **Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.**  
Virtual. Invited talk.

# Tino Pleiner, PhD

■ California Institute of Technology, 91125 Pasadena, CA, USA ■ [pleiner@caltech.edu](mailto:pleiner@caltech.edu)

---

## Teaching & Mentoring experience

- 2021 Supervision of research technician in Voorhees lab  
2020-present Supervision of graduate students in Voorhees lab  
2020 Supervision of lab rotation student in Voorhees lab (2 months)  
2018 Supervision of lab rotation student in Voorhees lab (2 months)  
2014-2017 Supervision of research technician in Görlich lab (3 years)  
2014-2015 Supervision of M.Sc. student in Görlich lab (6 months)  
2014-2015 Supervision of lab rotation student in Görlich lab (2 months)  
2014-2015 Lecture and supervision of a practical course on 'recombinant protein expression and purification' for graduate students within GGNB, Göttingen, Germany.  
2014-2015 Tutoring for IMPRS for Molecular Biology, GGNB, Göttingen, Germany.  
Meeting with students and answering question sets of the associated lectures.

## Outreach

- 2021-present **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Representative** at Caltech BBE division  
10/16/2017 **Short film describing my work on alpaca-derived nanobodies** produced by a professional film team on behalf of the Max Planck Society to promote understanding for the use of animals in research. (video in German).  
Link: <https://youtu.be/wZrX8KG7IYg?t=400>  
Featured on German TV e.g.: [https://youtu.be/vxX\\_3vdHVhQ?t=81](https://youtu.be/vxX_3vdHVhQ?t=81)  
07/09/2017 **Lecture and guided tour through alpaca facility** for undergraduate students of the University of Osnabrück, Germany at MPIbpc Göttingen.  
11/19/2015 **Lecture, experiments and guided tour through alpaca facility** for high school students from Lindau, Germany at MPIbpc Göttingen.  
07/23/2015 **Public 'Science slam' presentation** at summer festival of MPIbpc Göttingen.

## Extracurricular activities

- 2013 **Organization of the 10th 'Horizons in Molecular Biology'**  
International Ph.D. Student Symposium at MPIbpc Göttingen; Head of Planning and Coordination. Delivered opening speech of the symposium.  
2012 **Organization of the 9th 'Horizons in Molecular Biology'**  
International Ph.D. Student Symposium at MPIbpc Göttingen; Public Relations.  
2012-2013 **Student Representative for IMPRS for Molecular Biology program**