

Christiane Berger-Schaffitzel studied Biochemistry in Hannover and at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zürich, Switzerland. She obtained her PhD from the University of Zürich. After a Postdoc at the ETH, she became Lecturer and Oberassistent at ETH Zürich. In 2007, she was appointed team leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Grenoble, France. Since 2014, Christiane is Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Bristol. She established high resolution electron cryo-microscopy in Bristol and leads the Wellcome Trust- and BBSRC-funded GW4 Cryo-EM facility since 2017.

Current research is funded by the BBSRC, MRC and a Wellcome Trust Investigator award to research gene expression regulation. A particular focus of the group is the study of complexes involved in nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD). More recently, Christiane was awarded with an EC Horizon 2020 FET open technology development award to fund the development of new snakebite treatment therapy in Sub-Saharan Africa. The team uses Ribosome Display and naïve libraries to select high affinity, neutralising binders against toxins.

During the pandemic, Christiane's team discovered that the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein binds Linoleic Acid, a vitamin. The team could show that Linoleic Acid binding to spike protein interferes with SARS-CoV-2 infection and viral replication. This discovery, published in *Science*, attracted attention worldwide. Christiane and colleagues founded HALO Therapeutics to develop these findings further into an antiviral nasal spray.