



EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Helena Kilpinen

Group leader

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Dr. Helena Kilpinen is an assistant professor in genome biology at the Helsinki Institute of Life Science (HiLIFE) and a research group leader at the Institute for Molecular Medicine (FIMM) and Neuroscience Center at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Helena received her PhD from the University of Helsinki in 2011 where she studied the genetic mechanisms underlying autism spectrum disorders. For her postdoctoral training, she transitioned to functional genomics, studying how DNA sequence variation influences different levels of gene regulation in human cells, first at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and then at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in Cambridge, UK. Helena started her research group in 2016, jointly at the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health in London and the Wellcome Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK, where she held a MRC eMedLab Career Development Fellowship in Medical Bioinformatics. Helena's group moved to the University of Helsinki in June 2020. Her group studies how genetic variation causes variability in cellular phenotypes, in particular during human neurodevelopment, and contributes to differential susceptibility to diseases, both common and rare.