

I was born and raised in Salzburg, Austria and studied Biology at the University of Salzburg. In 1991, I completed my PhD studies at the Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Endocrinology in Hannover and at the GSF in Munich, Germany and moved to Boston, USA. I worked as a postdoctoral fellow under the supervision of Dr. HM Kronenberg in the Endocrine Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. My research focused on the generation and characterization of PTH/PTHrP receptor knockout mice, which in part led to the important discovery of the negative feedback loop between Indian hedgehog and PTHrP that regulates the rate of chondrocyte differentiation in the growth plate. I was recruited in 1998 as an independent group leader at the Max-Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany where I became interested in investigating the biology of FGF-23. I was appointed to Associated Professor of Developmental Biology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 2002. My lab is currently studying the role of Indian hedgehog during endochondral bone formation *in vivo* and the pathophysiological role of Fgf-23 using genetic mouse models.