

**Project 8 (P8): Functional analysis of the RNA-binding protein Khd4 from *Ustilago maydis***

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**Summary:**

We study the regulation of morphology and pathogenicity of *Ustilago maydis*, the causative agent of corn smut. Previously, it was demonstrated that the RNA-binding protein Khd4 is essential for these processes. In the proposed project we would like to uncover the molecular function of Khd4 by answering the following key questions:

- (i) Which mRNAs are recognized by Khd4 *in vivo* ?
- (ii) Which posttranscriptional process, like translation, transport or stability of mRNAs are regulated by Khd4 ?
- (iii) What is the molecular function of the encoded proteins during regulation of morphology and pathogenicity?