Prof. Martina Muckenthaler is Professor of Molecular Medicine in the Department of Paediatric Haematology, Oncology and Immunology at the Heidelberg University. Trained as a molecular biologist in London and at the University of Oxford (UK) for her PhD, she joined the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg for her postdoctoral work and is presently also a PI of the Iron Homeostasis research group within the MMPU – a joint venture between the Heidelberg Faculty of Medicine and the EMBL.

Her longstanding research interest focuses on molecular regulatory mechanisms underlying iron homeostasis and the molecular pathophysiology of genetic and acquired iron overload and iron deficiency diseases. One major research focus is to unravel the role of iron in lung pathophysiology and in particular in the tumor microenvironment of lung tumors.

Martina Muckenthaler serves many academic societies and committees. She is chair of the scientific committee of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), executive board member of the European Hematology Association (EHA) as well as president elect of the International Bioiron Society. She chairs the Physician Scientist program of the Medical Faculty of the Heidelberg University, a program that enables young MDs to receive research training towards careers as physician scientists, and the prestigious European fellowship and grant program of the European Hematology Association. In recognition of her engagement for women in science, and her keen interest in science communication, she was selected as one of ten female European researchers for the EU-funded “Insight Lecture Series” that educates young people in key topics in the life sciences.

Martina Muckenthaler actively follows her vision to promote translational research and the cooperation between fundamental molecular research and clinical medicine by motivating young biologists and MDs to bridge between both disciplines. For this reason she would also be happy to mentor young researchers at the DZL. As a mother of three children, she is well aware and has mastered the difficulties associated with combining family life and a research career. Thus her experience may encourage also young women to engage in a scientific career.