Jasmin Herz, PhD is a Neuroimmunologist. She grew up in Bergisch Gladbach in Germany and received her B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Genetics from the University of Cologne in Germany. During a Spring school for young scientists, she became fascinated with viruses and immunity to infectious diseases which made her pursue a Ph.D. in Cellular Immunology in the Medical Institute for Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene in Cologne. One of her major achievements was to identify the importance of acid sphingomelinase for immune cell function in acute viral infection.

Jasmin's interest in exploring more complex pathogenic aspects of infections led her to study benign and fatal viral infections of the brain in the laboratory of Dorian McGavern at the National Institutes of Heaths (NINDS). She discovered that therapeutic antiviral T cells can completely purge virus from the brains of persistently infected mice without causing blood brain barrier breakdown or tissue damage.

Following her postdoc, she joined Jonathan Kipnis' team at the University of Virginia and investigated how meningeal lymphatic vessels participate in different neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, and aging. She discovered that the meningeal lymphatic vessels were used by T cells and dendritic cells as avenues to drain to local cervical lymph nodes. The process of draining to the lymph nodes amplified inflammation in the brain. She unraveled the specific molecular cues which participate in inflammation.

In July 2020, Jasmin joined the Department of Pathology & Immunology at Washington University School of Medicine as an Assistant professor, and she is currently investigating the mechanisms by which immune cells and their derived cytokines act on neuronal function and modulate cognition and behavior.

Outside of work, Jasmin loves riding her motorcycle, camping, hiking, and exploring the outdoors with her friends and adventure buddy Whiskey. She also enjoys the local farmers market and the beer scene in St. Louis.