



INTERCEPT-MDS



INTERCEPT-MDS INTERNATIONAL PhD FELLOWSHIPS



1 full-time PhD position

HOST INSTITUTE:

- Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus, Germany > Frankfurt

RESEARCH PROFILE: First Stage Researcher (R1¹)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12 May 2022

EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407

Offer Description

The Innovative Training Network (ITN) "INTERCEPT-MDS - Exploring cell-to-cell heterogeneity and exploiting epigenetic regulation for the interception of myeloid disease cells" is recruiting 1 highly motivated PhD candidate. The position is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 953407.

See more info at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en

PhD position available in tissue engineering and translational oncology

A stimulating PhD position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Hind Medyouf, at the Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (Frankfurt, Germany). The research group is focused on exploring the role of the microenvironment in cancer.

PhD Project 9: Exploiting 3D organotypic niche models to dissect the cellular crosstalk between niche and haematopoietic stem/progenitor cells (HSPCs) in human myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS): The scientific project builds on recent developments in the Medyouf lab and will use tissue engineering approaches to explore the biology of human myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), in a fully human setting. MDS is a heterogeneous group of pre-leukemic diseases where pre-malignant stem cells show a great dependency on their surrounding niche cells (Medyouf, Cell Stem Cell, 2014; Medyouf, Blood, 2017). The goal of the PhD candidate will be to dissect the molecular mechanisms and cellular interactions that underpin this dependency and leverage the gained knowledge for disease interception, before transformation into acute leukemia. The PhD candidate will initially optimize the recently established 3D human organotypic marrow environments (3DHOMEs) to increase throughput and standardization, two

¹ First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.

essential features that will allow the PhD candidate to conduct screens. Results obtained from the 3DHOMEs will be validated using established patient-derived xenograft models.

To further broaden the expertise of the PhD candidate and support the project, two secondments (stays in collaborating laboratories within the network) of 3 months will be offered as an integral part of the PhD project. The envisioned secondments for this position are at GenomeScan B.V. (Leiden, The Netherlands) and at the University of Bergen (Bergen, Norway).

About the INTERCEPT-MDS network

INTERCEPT-MDS brings together 10 European public and private institutions in a European network of experts in leukaemia, epigenetics and single-cell approaches. Through a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, the INTERCEPT-MDS network will study disease interception in the context of clonal myeloid diseases.

The PhD candidate to be based at the Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (Frankfurt, Germany) will have eleven counterparts at other leading European research institutions. The successful candidate will be enrolled in a PhD programme and will receive an outstanding and tailored training designed specifically for the INTERCEPT-MDS fellows. The secondments in other European institutions within the network will provide the needed interactions to achieve research and training excellence and improve the future career perspectives of the fellow.

REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility criteria:

Applicants can be of any nationality and must fulfil the following criteria:

- Not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers at the date of recruitment (from the date when the applicant obtained the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate).
- Not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Have a master's degree relevant for the chosen position or its equivalent that would entitle them to embark on a doctorate by the time they are recruited, or must hold an official university qualification from a country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTS of official university studies. Applications are welcome from candidates who are currently finishing their master studies (state the expected defense date in the application).

Successful candidates will have a strong interest in tissue engineering or translational research. Applicants with solid background in computational biology will be given priority. Having an interest on outreach activities and public engagement will be considered a plus.

Candidates must have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What we offer

A highly stimulating and clinically relevant project in an inspiring international research team within an interdisciplinary network of scientists, clinicians and industrial partners. As part of the ITN, the PhD fellow participates in organized training courses, networking events and expands expertise through stays in the laboratories of other ITN members. The institute is located in the heart of Frankfurt providing a very stimulating, friendly and international environment. The working language is English.

Full-time employment contract with a competitive salary (following the MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers).

How to apply:

To apply, please read the full details at intercept-mds.eu/apply-now.

Selection process:

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee. The 3 top candidates for the position will be invited for a virtual interview where the final candidate will be selected.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

Timeline

- Application deadline: 12 May 2022 at midnight (Central European Time)
- Tentative start of the fellowship: by June 2022.

For further information on the INTERCEPT-MDS network, please visit www.intercept-mds.eu.



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