

PhD position "Small compounds for treatment of acquired TTP"

Funded by the HORIZON 2020 programme of the European Commission, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network "PROFILE" groups academic and industrial expertise within Europe to develop an immunoprofile-directed stratification of patients with the autoimmune disorder thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).

The grant beneficiaries, located in Belgium, The Netherlands and Estonia, are currently recruiting six early stage researchers (ESR) (PhD students). To all ESR, outstanding training opportunities and support in an excellent scientific network will be provided. The project beneficiaries are affiliated with internationally renowned research institutes, universities or industrial partners.

Sanquin Research as a beneficiary of the Marie Curie EID PROFILE consortium is hiring 2 PhD students.

Job Description

Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura is a life-threatening disorder that results from the development of auto-antibodies directed against ADAMTS13. You will use structural bioinformatics methods including virtual ligand screening to develop novel small-compound based therapeutic strategies for acquired TTP. You will use rational methods to select potential ligands that target pathogenic auto-antibodies that arise in patients with acquired TTP. Based on the information collected in a complementary project also small compounds interfering with CD4+ T cell responses in acquired TTP will be developed. The compounds will be tested for their efficacy in in vitro assays as well as mouse models for acquired TTP.

You will work in a multidisciplinary international team that focuses on the interplay between hemostatic proteins and immune cells. This team is embedded in the Department of Plasma Proteins, where 25-30 fellow researchers (post-docs, PhD students and technicians) are studying various aspects of bleeding disorders. The research program of the department benefits from the excellent research facilities at Sanquin. This project will be performed in collaboration with Dr. Gerry Nicolaes (Pharma Target, Maastricht), expert in the development of small compounds. The PhD student will work 50% of her/his time in Maastricht. You will be trained in drug discovery, design and optimisation under the direction of Dr. Gerry Nicolaes. The PROFILE consortium consists of 6 PhD students that will all receive an excellent research-training. Additionally, all students will receive a clinical training, translational training, training in management, business, ethical and legal skills and training in career development and personal skills.

Nr of positions available : 1

Research Fields

Medical sciences - Other

Career Stage

Early stage researcher or 0-4 yrs (Post graduate)

Research Profiles

First Stage Researcher (R1)

Benefits

- An exciting, well-equipped research environment
- A PhD-title after 4 years of research
- Enrollment in the Graduate School of the AMC in Amsterdam.
- A thorough scientific education with opportunity to become a world-class researcher
- Access to the unique training network organized by the PROFILE consortium

- Opportunities to present research findings at national and international conferences
- Opportunities to publish research findings in international journals
- Opportunities to learn to present research to the general public
- A competitive salary with additional family and mobility allowance
- Employment contract with social coverage

Comment/web site for additional job details

Profile of the ESR (PhD student)

- You have a master degree with distinction in biomedical sciences or biochemistry
- Especially candidates with experience in structural bioinformatics, drug design and programming in a LINUX environment are requested to apply.
- You are fascinated by scientific research and innovation
- You are motivated, enthusiastic and eager to learn
- You are being able to work methodically and accurately
- You are being able to work independently yet also being a team player
- You have excellent communication skills and fluently spoken and written English
- You have a creative mind and strong problem solving skills
- You have a good writing and oral expression
- In frame-work of your PhD you have the opportunity to work for 1.5 year in a non-academic institution that will include an extended stay at Pharma Target in Maastricht.

Eligibility

Candidates may have max. 4 years of full time research experience and may not have resided or carried out their main activity in The Netherlands for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to recruitment. Candidates must work exclusively on the action and must be able to start on March 1, 2016.

Interested?

- Applicants should submit a detailed curriculum vitae, PDF of degrees, a letter of motivation and contact information of 2 referees by email. Please mention "PROFILE ESR application" as subject.
- For more information please contact prof. Dr. Jan Voorberg; tel: +31205123122, email: j.voorberg@Sanquin or Dr. Gerry Nicolaes; tel: +31433881688, email: g.nicolaes@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- You can apply for this job no later than November 27, 2015.
- Pre-selected candidates will be invited to the final selection round in Leuven, Belgium held in December 2016 (date to be announced). Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to 100€.