



INTERCEPT-MDS



1 PhD position

HOST INSTITUTE:

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

RESEARCH PROFILE: First Stage Researcher (R1¹)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 22 May 2023

EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407

Offer Description

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (MSCA-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 at the Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy Georg-Speyer-Haus in Frankfurt (Germany). INTERCEPT-MDS 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 about H2020 MSCA ITNs at: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/funding/marie-sklodowska-curie-innovative-training-networks-2020>.

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): This ongoing scientific project focuses on MDS, a heterogenous 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 PhD candidate will dissect the molecular mechanisms and cellular interactions that underpin this dependency and leverage the gained knowledge for the rational design of therapeutic approaches that enable disease interception. Cell-cell interactions between MDS cells and bone marrow niche components will be explored using multiomics analysis in the context of a multicellular and fully human 3D organotypic bone marrow model system (3D Human Organotypic Marrow Environment or 3D HOME), recently established by the Medyouf lab. The PhD candidate will initially expand the throughput and standardization of the 3DHOMEs system, two essential features that will facilitate its use as a powerful screening platform. Results obtained from the 3DHOMEs will be validated using patient samples and established patient-derived xenograft models in collaboration with other ITN members.

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

To 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. to gain in depth expertise in NGS analysis (Leiden, The Netherlands), and at INSERM to perform functional CRISPR screening (Paris, France).

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 studies 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 join an ongoing 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.

For further information on the INTERCEPT-MDS network, including past and future events, please visit www.intercept-mds.eu.

REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility criteria and qualifications

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 will finish their master studies by 1 July 2023, at the latest (Please state the expected defence date in the application).

Successful candidates will have a very strong research drive and the motivation to take on an ambitious project, as well as a keen interest in tissue engineering and/or translational research. Applicants with solid background in computational biology will be given priority. Having a demonstrated interest on outreach activities and public engagement will be considered a plus.

Candidates must be proficient in written and spoken English.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What we offer

A highly stimulating and clinically relevant 36-month 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.

Contractual details

This position is supported by a full-time employment contract initially for 36 months. Until 31 December 2024, the contract will be paid by INTERCEPT-MDS funding that follows the H2020 MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment. After this date, the full-time employment contract will be set according to standards at the Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus based on past working experience. The total duration of the contract will be a minimum of 36 months.

How to apply:

If you are interested in the position, please visit the INTERCEPT-MDS website (www.intercept-mds.eu/apply-now) and follow the application instructions. Applications must be in English and should include:

- CV
- Contact details from 2 referees (Include name, title, current position, institution and e-mail address)
- A letter of motivation, including a statement of prior experience and specific motivation to join the advertised project (1 page maximum).
- Bachelor and Master degree certificates (please include the transcripts to English of the academic records)

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: **22 May 2023 at 14:00 (CEST)**
- Virtual interviews: May/June 2023 (exact date to be determined)
- Tentative start of the fellowship: June/July 2023



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