

Early Stage Researcher (Ph.D.) position in multiple sclerosis

The position is funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union with PMSMatTrain (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Initial Training Network and Grant Agreement No. 813263. The project focuses on gaining a comprehensive understanding of the progressive phase of multiple sclerosis from basics to translation, fully supported by eight beneficiaries (six research institutions and two SMEs). This multidisciplinary network will educate and train 15 Early Stage Researchers. Programme fellows will experience both public and private sector research & development training and will be best placed to secure employment as high calibre, innovative and well-trained graduates.

Job Description:

Early phases of the autoimmune neurodegenerative disorder multiple sclerosis (MS) are quite well controlled by several potent anti-inflammatory drugs. However, drugs able to initiate neuronal repair constitute an unmet need, especially for progressive forms of multiple sclerosis. We have recently discovered that our molecule of long-term interest, a proliferation inducing ligand from the TNF superfamily (APRIL, TNFSF13) is selectively expressed in all types of MS lesions, and harbors a new binding partner in the central nervous system (CNS), the chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan (CSPG) (Baert et al., *Annals of Neurology*, 2019). Chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPG) are well known to impair spontaneous neuroregeneration following brain injuries. The project will aim at testing whether APRIL may behave as an antagonist of CSPG, thus initiating neuronal repair in MS.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop *in vitro/ex vivo* assays to test the CSPG inhibitory activity of APRIL. In collaboration with other consortium researchers, investigate the efficacy of APRIL in different *in vivo* models of multiple sclerosis.
- Identify potential new binding partners of APRIL in the central nervous system.
- Participate in training events for researchers and principal Investigators involved in the programme.

Qualifications: Essential

- Honours Bachelor degree in life sciences.
- Less than 4 years' full time-equivalent research experience and not yet have been awarded a doctoral degree (PhD)
- Resided less than 12 months in France in the last 3 years.
- Excellent communication and organisation skills, fluent in spoken and written English, excellent writing and presentation skills, flexibility and ability to work in a team environment, availability to travel nationally and internationally.

Salary: The remuneration will be in line with the European Commission rules for Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant holders (Early-Stage Researchers, Initial Training Network). http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf.

Start date: Position is available from September 2019

To Apply:

Applications (in English) should include a CV, certificates of examination grades, a motivation letter (max. one page) describing your research career goals, skills and experience, as well as two letters of recommendation. Please send applications by e-mail (in PDF only) to Pr Bertrand Huard (bertrand.huard@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr). Please quote PMSMatTrain in the subject line of your e-mail application.

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment. The university Grenoble-Alpes is an equal opportunities employer.

