1 PhD position at University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf to test new non coding RNA therapeutics in engineered heart tissue as a highly translational platform.

RESEARCH FIELDS
Biological sciences › Biomedical Sciences, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology or Molecular Life Sciences.
RESEARCHER PROFILE
1 PhD student (≤ 4 years of research experience at time of recruitment).
APPLICATION DEADLINE
10 JUNE 2019 18:00h - Europe/Brussels
LOCATIONS
- University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

TYPE OF CONTRACT
Temporary.
JOB STATUS
Full-time.
HOURS PER WEEK
40.
OFFER STARTING DATE
Flexible starting July – December 2019.
EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
H2020 / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions / European Training Network.
MARIE CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER
813617.

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf is looking for an Early Stage Researcher (ESR) who will therapeutically test pre-existing RNA therapeutic candidates in human engineered heart tissue. This ESR position is part of the TRAIN-HEART consortium, a Marie-Sklodowska Curie Innovative Training Network that starts on the 1st of June 2019.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER HAMBURG-EPPENDORF

University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) is affiliated to the University of Hamburg and one of the largest faculties of Medicine in Germany (>3,600 medical students). In more than 80 clinics and institutes research and teaching is actively accomplished by >2200 physicians and scientists. The Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology (IEPT), that participates in the TRAIN-HEART consortium, is part of the Cardiovascular Research Center which provides training and supervision for MD/PhD and PhD candidates in cardiovascular research. Prof. Thomas Eschenhagen will be supervising this ESR project at University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

ABOUT TRAIN-HEART

The TRAIN-HEART consortium, funded by the European Commission (2019-2023), is made up to train the next-generation of innovation-minded researchers who are able to explore and translate pathogenic insights, accelerate the development of existing RNA therapeutics, and effectively implement innovative drug delivery systems to improve safety and therapeutic efficacy for the treatment of ischemic heart failure. Academic, clinical and industry partners, covering various disciplines ranging from cardiovascular biology to clinical pharmacology and functional genomics to drug development, have teamed up in the EU:

- Maastricht University (The Netherlands)
- Hannover Medical School (Germany)
- King's College London (United Kingdom)
- Claude Bernard Lyon University (France)
- Technical University Munich (Germany)
- Humanitas University (Milan, Italy)
- University Hospital Hamburg (Germany)
- University of Porto (Portugal)
- Mirabilis Therapeutics BV (Maastricht, The Netherlands)
- Miltenyi Biotec (Cologne, Germany).

TRAIN-HEART website url: http://www.train-heart.eu

ABOUT THE ESR PROJECT

The PhD student will be enrolled in UKE Graduate School which makes use of, inter alia, Humboldt Graduate School, and guided by two accredited academic supervisors.

- Main supervisor: Prof. Thomas Eschenhagen.
- Co-supervisor: Dr Marc Hirt.

This PhD student will test new non coding RNA therapeutics in engineered heart tissue derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells as a highly translational platform. Effects on pathologic remodelling processes will be studied by inducing aspects of heart failure in the engineered heart tissue, with typical phenotypic alterations such as reduced contractile force, increased fibrosis and impaired diastolic relaxation as observed in patients with heart failure.

Secondments:
This PhD student will have the opportunity to spend 3 months at Technical University Munich, Germany (group of Prof. Stefan Engelhardt, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology) to learn pharmacology/toxicity principles of new oligonucleotide-based drug candidates.
Another non-academic secondment opportunity is proposed for 2 months at Mirabilis Therapeutics BV (The Netherlands). Mirabilis is a biotechnology start-up company that is dedicated to the early development of microRNA-based therapies for cardiovascular and metabolic disorders. The front running product is indicated against ischemic heart failure.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED EDUCATION LEVEL
A degree (MSc, or equivalent) in Health or Life Sciences (Biomedical Sciences, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology or Molecular Life Sciences). Candidates in the final stages of obtaining their degree are eligible to apply.

REQUIRED LANGUAGES
ENGLISH: Excellent, both written and spoken.

SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS
We expect a Master´s degree (or equivalent) in Health and/or Life Sciences. Furthermore, the applicant should be able to perform team-oriented as well as independent work.
Desirable methodological skills: excellent background in molecular/cell biology and/or translational cardiac research, and/or hands-on knowledge of advanced laboratory methods.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants can be of any nationality and must be Early Stage Researchers and shall at the date of recruitment by University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Furthermore. the applicant must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of his/her host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to his/her recruitment.

RENUMERATION
The per annum MSCA PhD student living and mobility allowance (plus family allowance if applicable, family status is assessed at recruitment) is in line with EU-MSCA requirements. This amount will be subject to tax and employee's National insurance deductions and will be paid in EURO.

HOW TO APPLY
Complete applications in English should include the TRAIN-HEART Application Form and its mandatory attachments (http://train-heart.eu/apply-for-a-train-heart-position). Please note that applications that do not meet these requirements WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please send the complete package as 1 PDF file via email to info@train-heart.eu before 10 June 2019 18:00h - Europe/Brussels.

Please familiarize yourself also with the other 14 postings (PhD positions) within the TRAIN-HEART consortium (www.train-heart.eu). Selected applicants will be invited to a following face-to-face interview round (interviews will be held between 17 - 28 June 2019). Awarding decisions will be announced shortly thereafter, and candidates are expected to be available to start their projects between July and December 2019.

HOW YOUR DATA IS KEPT
The data submitted in the Application Form will be used for recruitment purposes only and shared by members of the TRAIN-HEART consortium. The data will be held securely at Maastricht University (network coordinator of TRAIN-HEART) and shared by secure cloud-based storage. Data is intended to be kept for a maximum of four years (the life-span of the project). Further information may be collected from the above-named institutes. Candidates can request deletion of their data by contacting info@train-heart.eu.