

1 PhD position at Mirabilis Therapeutics and Leiden University Medical Center to study drug optimisation and pharmacology/toxicity of new RNA therapeutics for ischemic heart failure.

RESEARCH FIELDS

Biological sciences › Biomedical Sciences, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology or Molecular Life Sciences.

Medicine › Pharmacology or Cardiovascular Medicine.

RESEARCHER PROFILE

1 PhD student (≤ 4 years of research experience at time of recruitment).

APPLICATION DEADLINE

10 JUNE 2019 18:00h - Europe/Brussels

LOCATIONS

- Mirabilis Therapeutics (Maastricht, The Netherlands).
- Leiden University Medical Center (The Netherlands).
- Centre for Human Drug Research (Leiden, The Netherlands).

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.

Mirabilis Therapeutics and Leiden University Medical Center are looking for an Early Stage Researcher (ESR) who will study drug optimisation and pharmacology/toxicity of new RNA therapeutics in ischemic heart failure. 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 MIRABILIS THERAPEUTICS

Mirabilis Therapeutics is a university spin-out biotechnology company that is dedicated to the early development of microRNA-based therapies for cardiovascular and metabolic disorders. The front running product is indicated against heart failure. Mirabilis has in-house expertise in pharmacologically modulating microRNAs using oligonucleotides, pre-clinical and clinical development, formulation and regulatory affairs. Mirabilis' business model will be to take potential drug candidates as far as Phase II clinical trials in order to demonstrate proof-of-concept, before offering them on a licensing basis to pharmaceutical companies. Dr Jan Wit will be supervising this ESR project at Mirabilis Therapeutics.

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 Graduate School of Leiden University Medical Center that offers medical and biomedical PhD students a highly reputed research environment, excellent infrastructure and supervision, and in-depth scientific and transferable skill courses.

- Main supervisor: Dr Jan Wit.
- Local co-supervisor: Dr Sjef de Kimpe.
- Academic supervisor: Prof. Koos Burggraaf.

This PhD student will determine the best route of administration and perform dose-range finding studies to interrogate competitively low mg/kg dosages of new RNA therapeutics for ischemic heart failure in repeated administration routes to adjust dosage to the least adaptive immunogenicity and off-target organ toxicity, viability/mortality, clinical symptoms, body weight, food consumption, kidney function, coagulation and clinical pathology (haematology, clinical chemistry and urinalysis). The main result of this project will be the completion of pharmacology/toxicity optimisation studies of new drug candidates for ischemic 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 secondment opportunity is proposed for 3 months at University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany (group of Prof. Thomas Eschenhagen, Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology) to test phenotypic effects of drug candidates in human engineered heart tissue.

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 Mirabilis Therapeutics, 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.