

The (MSCA)-ITN the Innovative Training Networks program ENHPATHY to be launched on March 01, 2020

- ENHPATHY gathers 15 academic and 9 non-academic European organisations from 11 different countries;
- It received € 4 million in funding from the European Commission to train 15 PhD students over the next 4 years in the field of enhancers and enhanceropathies;
- A kick-off meeting gathering all beneficiary organisations will be held in Marseille on March 10, 2020;
- Call for student applications will start on March 15, 2020.

Marseille, February 17, 2020 - ENHPATHY sets the launch date for its European epigenetics training program on March 01, 2020. The 15 beneficiary organisations (see the full list of participants below) will be expected in Marseille during a kick-off meeting to discuss the implementation of the main axes of the program and settle the latest details of the student recruitment process.

Funded in the frame of *The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)*, ENHPATHY relies on leading research-focused organisations (universities, research centres, and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide. The main objective is to support research training programmes providing experience outside academia, hence developing innovation and employability skills.

The general approach of ENHPATHY is to train the next generation of 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and equip them with state-of-the-art theoretical, technical and computational skills to study fundamental aspects of enhancer biology and their impact

on common human diseases. In genetics, enhancers are a short region of DNA that can be bound by proteins to increase the likelihood that transcription of a particular gene will occur. *“If mutations within coding genes have traditionally been considered the major genetic cause of human disease, it is becoming increasingly clear that the genetic, structural and/or epigenetic disruption of enhancers and enhancer landscapes represent major etiological factors in numerous human diseases (i.e. enhanceropathies)”* explains Alvaro Rada-Iglesia, Principal Investigator at UNICAN (University of Cantabria) and vice-coordinator of ENHPATHY.

By integrating academic and private institutions and partners with complementary expertise in technological, analytical and computational aspects of genetic and epigenetic research as well as various transferable skills, this training programme will not only provide the ideal collaborative environment to perform outstanding individual projects, but will also foster a wide range of training activities in translational sciences and drug discovery settings, science writing, editing, communication, patent filing, entrepreneurship, and science administration that will strengthen the professional skills and career prospects of the fellow students. *“ENHPATHY is expected to improve the genetic knowledge around enhanceropathies, such as cancer, inflammatory diseases, obesity, diabetes and developmental disorders, in order to improve diagnosis, therapy, genetic counselling and prevention in patients”* said Salvatore Spicuglia, Principal Investigator at TAGC (INSERM - Aix-Marseille University) and coordinator of ENHPATHY.

ENHPATHY is the first Innovative Training Networks program funded by the European commission to be coordinated by a joint research unit of INSERM and the University of Aix-Marseille. *“The ENHPATHY ITN will booster our understanding of the complex links between genotypes and phenotypes, for which the cognitive prospects and the applications on personalized medicine are immense”* said Catherine Nguyen Director of Genetics, genomics and bioinformatics” ITMO (Aviesan, Paris).

About ENHPATHY

ENHPATHY is a multidisciplinary science consortium created in the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)-ITN-ETN European Training Networks call and

regrouping 15 academic and 12 non-academic European organisations in the continuum of basic, translational and clinical research on enhancers and associated diseases. ENHPATHY aims to increase scientific knowledge and train the new generation of researcher on the molecular basis of human enhanceropathies to open new diagnostic and therapeutic avenues for patients.

The 15 beneficiary organisations are : The Institut National pour la Santé et la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), France - The University of Cantabria (UNICAN), Spain - The Institute of Molecular Genetics of the AS CR (IMG), Czech Republic - The University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark - The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) - The Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Spain - The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), The Netherlands - The University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Denmark - The European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Italy - The University of Warsaw (UoW), Poland - The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden - The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Germany - Gen-X B.V. (Gen-X), The Netherlands - ELVESYS SAS (Elvesys), France - Advanced BioDesign (ABD), France.

More information about ENHPATHY

www.enhpathy.eu / 

About Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers - be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers - and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA enable research-focused organisations (universities, research centres, and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.

ITNs (Innovative Training Networks) support competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by European partnerships of universities, research institutions, and non-academic organisations.

The research training programmes provide experience outside academia, hence developing innovation and employability skills. ITNs include industrial doctorates, in which non-academic organisations have an equal role to universities in respect of the

researcher's time and supervision, and joint doctoral degrees delivered by several universities. Furthermore, non-European organisations can participate as additional partners in ITNs, enabling doctoral-level candidates to gain experience outside Europe during their training.

More information about MSCA

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions>

About Inserm

Funded in 1964, The Inserm is the only public research organization in France entirely dedicated to human health. Its objective is to promote the health of all by advancing knowledge about life and disease, treatment innovation, and public health research.

More information about Inserm

www.inserm.fr

About Aix-Marseille Université

With nearly 80,000 students, including 10,000 international students and nearly 1,000 national and university diplomas, a career guidance and professional integration service, a continuing education service, with 120 research structures linked to the largest research organisations (Inserm, CNRS, IRD, INRA, CEA, etc.) and its 12 doctoral schools, Aix-Marseille University is a considerable asset in the service of territorial economic development and beyond. It makes collaboration with socio-economic actors a major issue. The A*Midex University Foundation, which carries the Idex into the future, contributes to the development of a world-class multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary higher education and research centre. Numerous successes within the PIA framework attest to the dynamism of its research teams. Interdisciplinarity and innovation are strong markers of its identity, both in terms of research and innovation. Since its

creation, Aix-Marseille University has been open to its environment and its times, and has deployed a bold policy of social responsibility that has made it the leading French university in this field. Ambitious on an international level with targeted partnership axes, Aix-Marseille University is now building a European university "CIVIS, a European Civic University" with 7 European partners. Based on the shared civic identities of its members, CIVIS brings together nearly 400,000 students and 55,000 staff around themes that pose societal challenges, such as sustainable development objectives, and focuses on the Mediterranean and Africa.

More information about Aix-Marseille Université

www.univ-amu.fr

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