



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE EUROPEAN TRAINING NETWORK "EUROoC" (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018) FOR ADVANCING ORGAN-ON-A-CHIP TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE

# JOB POSTING

## PhD position

### Recruiting organisation:

Jena University Hospital, Germany

INSPIRE Lab (PI: Dr. Alexander Mosig)

### Subproject title:

Emulation of the human gut in an integrated microfluidic organ-on-chip platform for investigation of human microbiome host interactions.

### Starting date:

01.03.2021

### Job description:

The advertised subproject will be carried out by a Research Assistant ("Early-stage Researcher") at Jena University Hospital over a period of 19 months, with the option to extend funding for a total of 36 months to do a PhD thesis. The recruited researcher will work in the INSPIRE Lab headed by Asst. Prof. Dr. Alexander Mosig, at the Center for Sepsis Control and Care / Institute of Biochemistry II.

She/he will develop and apply a novel Organ-on-a-chip system emulating an immunocompetent model of the human gut

- 1) by bioengineering of hiPSC derived tissues emulating organotypic microphysiological conditions of the human gut;
- 2) to establish a physiological model of the human microbiome colonizing the gut-on-chip model;

- 3) to study physiological host-microbiome interaction at the cellular and molecular level under physiological and disease related conditions

### Secondments are planned as follows:

- Universite du Luxembourg, Luxembourg for 1 month;
- Transgene SA, France for 1 month;
- INSERM, University Nantes, France for 1 month.

This subproject is fully funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Network „EUROoC“ (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018). The monthly salary consists of a living allowance, mobility allowance and family allowance (if applicable). Please visit the [EC MSCA webpage](#) for more information. The recruited researcher will have the opportunity to work as part of an international, interdisciplinary team of 15 PhD students, based at universities and industrial firms throughout Europe. She/he will gain a unique skill-set comprising microfabrication, biomaterial science and stem cell differentiation, as well as an overview of different organ-on-a-chip technologies and their implementation at industrial level. She/He is expected to disseminate the results through patents (if applicable), publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at international conferences.

### Background information:

Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Networks (ETNs) are joint research and training projects funded by the European Union. Funding is provided for PhD students from both inside and outside Europe to carry out individual project work in a European country other than their own.

The European training network "EUROoC" is made up of 11 core and 10 associate partners from academia, industry and



regulatory agencies, coordinated by Fraunhofer IGB.

Organ-on-a-Chip (OoC) technology is advancing at breath taking pace due to its potential impact in drug development and personalised treatments of disease. New researchers entering this field must be equipped with a multidisciplinary background ranging from biology to microfluidic chip engineering. EUROoC offers the first complete and coherent European training program on OoC by gathering multidisciplinary participants (biologists, physicists, chemists, engineers) in a multi-sectoral network composed of six companies, three regulation entities and twelve academic institutions.

EUROoC will qualify the next generation of interdisciplinary scientists for all aspects of OoC development and utilization, including understanding of commercialization pathways and regulatory aspects. EUROoC furthermore comprises a collection of innovative research projects addressing the development of advanced OoC systems with higher physiological significance going beyond current in vitro testing.

### **Requirements:**

#### **Qualifications / experience:**

- Early-stage researcher: a researcher without a PhD, who is in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of her/his research career, measured from the date when she/he obtained the degree, which would formally entitle her/him to embark on a doctorate.
- Graduation in the field of biology, microbiology, biomedical engineering or related fields – M.Sc. preferred.
- Basic knowledge of cell culture, bioengineering, 3D cell models

- Practical experience of stem cell culture & differentiation and fluorescence microscopy is a plus.
- Basic knowledge of data and image analysis and Microsoft Office.
- Well-structured and autonomous working style, good organizational and communication skills.
- Fluency in written and spoken English is a must, German is a plus.

#### **Mobility:**

The applicant must not have resided or carried out her/his main activity (work, studies etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the past three years.

#### **How to apply:**

Please send your CV, a half-page summary of master/diploma thesis, a letter of motivation (up to 2 pages) which states your research experience and interests, and names and contact information of at least two academic referees who could write a letter of recommendation by e-mail to the following address, quoting the reference „EUROoC-JUH-ESR5“:

[EUROoC@igb.fraunhofer.de](mailto:EUROoC@igb.fraunhofer.de)

For questions, please contact:

Dr. Alexander Mosig  
alexander.mosig@med.uni-jena.de

**Application deadline:** 3rd January 2021

Interviews are planned for February 2021.