



Job Opening Doctoral Candidate 6 (DC6) InnoCAR-T

Title: Establishing key immunosuppressive mechanisms associating with resistance or relapse upon CAR-T therapy in DBLCL patients

Keywords: CAR-T, DBLCL patients, spatial transcriptomics, screening

Duration: 36 months

Host institute: UMCG, Groningen, Netherlands

Duration: 27 months

Secondment institute: FCRB Barcelona, Spain

Duration: 9 months

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30/02/2023

Intended start date: April 2023

PhD-student position (3 years):

The aim of this project is to perform in-depth profiling of pre- and post-treatment tumor biopsies of patients having complete response or being refractory upon treatment with commercial CD19 CAR-T cells (Yescarta). Herewith, we aim to identify key regulatory pathways that dictate resistance to therapy that can subsequently be exploited for rational design of next-gen CAR-Ts that are resistant to immune suppression.

The PhD candidate will be working as part of an international consortium on their search for an immunotherapeutic approach to cancer treatment and will start their 3 year research project at the UMCG, one of the leading academic university hospitals in the Netherlands. Here, the candidate will work with unique patient-material and innovative omics technology to unravel mechanisms of resistance to CAR-T therapy. The candidate will further work at FCRB/ Spain, a leader in PoC CAR-T cell implementation to validate the findings/mechanisms emerging from the studies. This research project will end with a PhD thesis defense at the University of Groningen.

This project is part of a collaborative training network of 10 closely related projects (<https://www.innocar-t.eu/>) in which PhD students will benefit from networking opportunities. This includes a multidisciplinary training program with network-wide training events that will be provided to the candidates. Herewith, the PhD project will provide the candidate a unique opportunity to obtain knowledge/expertise on important facets of both academia and industry.

Key Responsibilities:

- Transcriptomics (incl. Spatial, ATAC-seq)
- Bioinformatics
- Multicolor Immunohistochemistry or In situ hybridization
- Preclinical validation studies
- Management, presentation and publication of research data

Requirements:

- Candidate is in the first four years of his/her research career and does not have a doctoral degree



- Residence duration in The Netherlands does not exceed 12 months in total within the last 3 years
- MSc in biotechnology, biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, or related
- Good time management and communication skills. Ability to communicate fluently and effectively in English
- Excellent team player who enjoys working in a fast-evolving research environment

Contact:

To apply, please send the following documents:

- CV (Name_Surname_CV.pdf)
- Cover letter (Name_Surname_CL.pdf)
- 2 letters of recommendation (Name_Surname_LR.pdf)

to the email address e.bremer@umcg.nl with "*PhD_InnoCAR-T*" in the email title.