



COST Action CA20117

Converting molecular profiles of myeloid cells into biomarkers for inflammation and cancer

Call for Applications to Short-Term Scientific Mission

Application deadline: 1st May 2023

Send applications to: Dr Annika Bruger, Grant Awarding Coordinator
annika.bruger@gmail.com

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Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs) in brief:

- Travel/mobility grants to visit a foreign research institution to conduct short scientific activities that further the COST Actions goals
- *Note: COST does NOT offer STSM grants to an institution within the SAME country*
- Researchers (incl. PhD students) from countries participating in the Mye-InfoBank COST Action
- **This call:**
 - WG 2
 - Standardization of staining protocols for tissue neutrophils
 - 19-23 June 2023, 10 AM to 1 PM
 - UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium

What are STSMs?

Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits for researchers within their Action. This exchange programme facilitates individuals – especially Young Researchers under the age of 40 - to conduct scientific activities at an institution or laboratory based **in a different country**, which is also part of the Action. STSMs are great opportunities for researchers to share techniques and gain skills that may not be available at their home institution or laboratory.

STSMs in Mye-InfoBank should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action (please also refer to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)).

WG 2 | STSM

CALL - Immunostaining of circulating and tissue-infiltrating neutrophils to facilitate neutrophil phenotypic and functional biomarker development in DACI

Host Institution: UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium

Supervisor/Coordinators: Caroline Bouzin

Instructors: Caroline Bouzin, Aurélie Daumerie, Pierre Michel

Timeframe: 19th June to 23rd June 2023

Attendees: On-site: 6x WG 2 members

Purpose: Based on our expertise in multiplex immunofluorescence staining of FFPE sections, we will fine tune a 6-plex panel dedicated to neutrophil subsets detection. Each primary antibody will first be tested in standard IHC-DAB to confirm previously established concentrations, on FFPE sections of lung and head and neck cancer. Each antibody will then be tested in fluorescence at each position (1 to 6) of the multiplex using the tyramide signal amplification (TSA) method. This experiment aims at finding the best combination, some antigens being destroyed after several cycles while others are better exposed. Slides will then be digitalized using a slide scanner.

Tasks: Our aim is to optimize a combination of neutrophil markers suitable for FFPE sections (specific staining, good signal-to-noise ratio, no spill-over).

Selection Criteria:

WG 2 members: Expertise in myeloid cell immunology with an interest in tissue sections immunostaining

Requirements:

- **Availability from June 19 at 10:00 until June 23 at 13:00.**
- Notebook / laptop
- Primary antibodies to be included in the multiplex

Expected Outcome: Based on the optimization performed during the STSM, we will run the chosen combination of antibodies on FFPE sections from different DACI samples to hopefully propose an optimal workflow.

Who is eligible?

The STSM applicant must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

The STSM application will be evaluated and selected based on the following criteria:

- Excellence of the written proposal.
- Geographical and gender balance issues are taken into consideration and ECIs will be privileged.
- Priority is given to applicants from inclusiveness target countries, but others will be considered as well.
- The country of origin and the host country must be members of the Mye-InfoBank network (not the host or origin institution).

The application will then be assessed by the formally delegated persons in the Core Group against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding.

Financial support

On-site participants of this STSM from countries other than Belgium will receive a grant of **EURO 1100,-** towards **travel, accommodation and meals**.

How to apply?

To apply, fill out the application form and return it to the Grant Awarding Coordinator, Dr Annika Bruger by email (annika.bruger@gmail.com).

Selected applicants will be notified and receive further instructions.

After the STSM

After completion of the STSM, the grantee is required to submit the following documents to the E-COST platform within 30 days:

- Scientific report, including:
 - Purpose of the STSM
 - Description of the work undertaken
 - Description of the main results
 - Future collaborations or other output resulting from the STSM
 - Template: http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template
- The STSM host's approval of the report.

The submission of the supporting documents is mandatory or the Grant is cancelled. Late submission, beyond the deadline, can also lead to the cancellation of the Grant and, in cases

when a pre-payment was done, the obligatory reimbursement by the grantee of the amount received.

A scientific report template is available on the Supporting documents page or on-line here: http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template. The STSM grantee must complete this template and save it in pdf before uploading it in e-COST. The host approval of the report can be an email confirming that the STSM took place and the goals outlined in the Work plan were reached.

Grantees may be asked to write reports of the STSM for the Mye-InfoBank website or to present the results of the STSM within the Mye-InfoBank network.