



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: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023*

*Send applications to: Dr Annika Bruger, Grant Awarding Coordinator*  
[annika.bruger@uclouvain.be](mailto:annika.bruger@uclouvain.be)

### CONTENT

What are STSMs? .....	1
<b>CALL</b> .....	2
STSM Application Form.....	3
Who is eligible? .....	4
Financial support.....	4
How to apply? .....	4
After the STSM .....	4

### 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 dendritic cells
  - 27-30 June 2023, 9AM to 5PM
  - University of Limerick, Ireland

## 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 tissue-infiltrating dendritic cells (DC) to facilitate DC phenotypic and functional biomarker development in DACI

<b>Host Institution:</b>	University of Limerick, Ireland
<b>Supervisor/Coordinators:</b>	Aedin Culhane
<b>Instructors:</b>	Aedin Culhane, Paul Murray, Eanna Fennell
<b>Timeframe:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b>Attendees:</b>	On-site: 6x WG 2 members

### Purpose:

This STSM is focused on the standardization of staining protocols to enable dendritic cell (DC) identification in chronically inflamed and neoplastic tissues. It contributes to the objectives of Working Group 2 (WG2) to validate and standardize staining protocols for myeloid-related biomarkers. We will test the IHC staining procedure for a panel of 4-6 candidate markers to identify dendritic cells (DC).

The protocol will be extended to 2 panels of 6 candidate markers to locate both DC subsets and tertiary lymphoid structures (TLS). In the future, it is intended that these DC and TLS biomarker panels can be analyzed alongside mAb panels identifying macrophage and neutrophil subsets.

**Tasks:** Candidate biomarkers (DC and TLS markers) were selected based on the expertise of the participants complemented by analysis of available literature. We aim at setting the optimal IHC conditions for their analysis in FFPE specimens from inflammatory disease and cancer and to establish the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for their evaluation in DACI.

### Selection Criteria:

*WG 2 members:* Expertise in myeloid cell immunology, with the ability to perform IHC procedures and assess the quality of cell specific staining.

### Requirements:

- **Availability from June 27 at 10am until June 30 at 5pm.**
- Notebook / laptop
- Primary antibodies to be included in the analysis

### Expected Outcome:

Based on our work during the STSM we establish standardized protocols for IHC analysis of DC subsets and TLS.



## 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 Spain will receive a grant of **EURO 1000** 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@uclouvain.be](mailto:annika.bruger@uclouvain.be)).

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](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](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.