



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: 15th August 2023

Send applications to: Dr Annika Bruger, Grant Awarding Coordinator
annika.bruger@uclouvain.be

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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 & 3
 - Establishing marker panels for myeloid cells in chronic inflammatory diseases
 - 20-22 September 2023
 - Oslo University Hospital, Norway

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 1 | STSM

CALL – Establishing marker panels for myeloid cells in chronic inflammatory diseases

Host Institution:	Oslo University Hospital, Norway
Supervisor/Coordinator:	Espen S. Bækkevold
Instructors:	Espen S. Bækkevold, Hogne Rød Nilsen, Kjersti Hagen
Timeframe:	20 th September to 22 nd September 2023
Attendees:	On-site: 8-10x WG 2 & 3 members/instructor(s)

Purpose:

One main output of WG 3 MYE-DISEASE is to facilitate the transformation of complex molecular data on myeloid cell signatures into biomarker panels employable in clinical diagnostic applications. To this end, immunostainings of tissue antigens offers the possibility to employ such panels in large collections of biosamples across research labs, and are readily compatible with routine pathological examinations.

Based on the initial testing of selected antibodies in the “cell-type-centric” STSMs, we will compile and test 6-plex marker panels on 4-5 tissue types (chronic inflammation and cancer) using immunofluorescence on FFPE-sections.

Tasks:

We plan to start from fresh surgical resections (depending on availability) and cover all steps from dissection, fixation, paraffin embedding and sectioning. Sections will then be stained with an automated immunohistochemistry platform (Ventana Discovery) using Opal Fluorophore Reagent Packs (Akoya) for detection, and finally imaged on a Phenolmager (Akoya). Scanned images will be distributed within the Action for processing by interested members.

The workshop will start in the morning (~10 am) Wednesday September 20th with tissue preparation and sectioning (and a dinner + drinks), Thursday 21st (until quite late) will be focusing on the staining procedure, and Friday will finish in the afternoon (~3 pm) with presentations from attendees and a wrap-up.

Selection Criteria:

Preferably some prior experience in immunohistochemistry or similar techniques, and some capacities (or ambitions) to implement multiplex immunofluorescence in their home labs.

Expected Outcome:

Based on our work during the STSM, we will establish and test protocols for 6-plex immunofluorescence stainings (with 3-4 cell type-specific “backbone markers” and 2-3 “functional markers”) which can be implemented in the Action members labs for scaled analyses of tissue specimens from relevant disease specimens.

STSM Application Form

(Do not exceed one page. Return to GAC Annika Bruger, annika.bruger@uclouvain.be)

Title: Establishing marker panels for myeloid cells in chronic inflammatory diseases

Application Deadline: 15th August 2023

Applicant Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Working group(s): _____

In-person: _____

Expertise:

Motivation:

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 Norway will receive a grant of **EURO 1200,-** 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).

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.