

EURO-CHOLANGIO-NET COST Action CA18122

“COST for MSCA” PROGRAM – AVAILABILITY FORM FOR HOSTING LABORATORY

This availability form has to be mailed to: melissa.kerr@uniroma1.it by **April 30, 2023**

NAME OF HOSTING MENTOR (<i>last, first, middle, title</i>) Peña-Llopis, Samuel, Ph.D.	
INSTITUTION / ORGANIZATION Name University Hospital Essen Mailing Address (<i>street, city, state/province, postal code, country</i>) Hufelandstr. 55, D-45147, Essen, Germany	
TELEPHONE / FAX (<i>country code, area code & extension</i>)	EMAIL ADDRESS
TEL: +49 201-723-6388	FAX: +49 201-723-5509
Samuel.Pena-Llopis@uk-essen.de	
WEBPAGE: https://dktk.dkfz.de/en/research/dtkk-researchers/Pena-Llopis-group	

RESEARCH FIELD (*please insert here a brief summary of the research interests of your lab*).

Cancer is caused by mutations, but not all mutations are the same. Some mutations do not have significant effects, while others are critical for the growth of cancer. Dr. Peña-Llopis and colleagues discovered BAP1 as an essential tumor suppressor that is frequently mutated in renal cell carcinoma. When the epigenetic modifier *BAP1* is mutated, cancer cells can spread more quickly, and patients with this mutation tend to have a poorer prognosis. Unfortunately, there are no treatments specifically targeting *BAP1*-mutant cancers. Dr. Peña-Llopis' research team focuses on elucidating the aggressiveness and vulnerabilities of tumors with *BAP1* mutations using a combination of bioinformatics, molecular biology and pre-clinical model approaches using patient-derived organoids to identify novel therapies with the aim of translating them into the clinic.

SKILLS (*please list here the skills – technical and soft – that a potential fellow could learn in your lab*)

A two-way transfer of knowledge is expected between the researcher and the host institution:

The researcher will gain new knowledge during the MSCA fellowship as indicated:

o Training Through Research. The direct mentoring of Dr. Peña-Llopis and the interaction with other members of the laboratory, will fulfil the training goal of the researcher of developing/learning new methodologies, techniques, approaches, equipment, and experiences in cancer bioinformatics, translational genomics, molecular biology, functional genetics and patient-derived organoids.

o Leadership, Management and Negotiation Skills. The German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) / German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) provides courses throughout the year to learn soft skills, such as Team Leadership, Team Management, Task Coordination, Conflict Resolution in Research Teams and Negotiation.

o Grant Writing Skills. Dr. Peña-Llopis will provide support and guidance for successful grant writing for competitive funds and opportunities for participating in grant writing workshops. In addition, the University of Duisburg-Essen recently established an internal grant writing support network for DFG grants, and the EU grant counselling office to support clinician and medical scientists in their selection of suitable funding opportunities.

o Networking. A scientific network with European cancer researchers will be established.

MENTOR (please list here your previous experience in mentoring post-doctoral fellows including MSCA fellows)

Number of PhD students supervised: **3**

Number of Postdoctoral Fellow supervised: **3**

Number of MSCA Fellows supervised: **0**

Other (please specify): **Former MSCA-IF fellow (VulneraBAP1, Grant Agreement ID: 798637) from 2018 to 2020. Therefore, successful experience in securing MSCA grant applications. In addition, Dr. Peña-Llopis is Coordinator of the German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) School of Oncology at Essen/Düsseldorf to promote the next generations of cancer researchers.**

INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION (please briefly write here the support your Institution/Organization has established for foreign postdoctoral fellows)

The University Hospital Essen, with its renowned West German Cancer Center, promotes cutting-edge research through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches and provides an excellent academic and supportive environment for postdoctoral fellows. Access is granted to outstanding Core Facilities of the University Hospital Essen (<https://www.uni-due.de/med/de/ze/index.shtml>) and the Center of Medical Biotechnology (ZMB, <https://www.uni-due.de/zmb/central-facilities.php>), including the West German Biobank Essen (WBE), the Genomics & Transcriptomics Facility (GTF), the Imaging Center Essen (IMCES), the Central Animal Laboratory (ZTL), the Analytics Core Facility Essen (ACE), the Imaging Center Campus Essen (ICCE), the Ethics Committee, the Central Laboratory Research and Teaching, the Medical Library and the Center for Clinical Trials Essen (ZKSE).

Postdoctoral fellows are supported by comprehensive qualification and career promotion measures of the Faculty of Medicine to ensure interaction and specific training in translational cancer research. Mentoring and qualification are closely interconnected with additional support measures coordinated by dedicated staff within the Dean's Office, especially the Vice-Dean of Early Career Support and Diversity. Together with the Vice-Rector for Research Career Development and Science Transfer of the University, the Faculty's Vice Dean for Early Career Support and Diversity, oversees the development, implementation, and evaluation of career promotion strategies. Measures are streamlined within the University's career support structures, which are coordinated and facilitated by the University's Science Support Centre. These include the newly founded University of Duisburg-Essen Graduate Centre Plus (<https://www.uni-due.de/gcplus>) as well as career support within the University Alliance Ruhr (UAR), uniting the University of Duisburg-Essen, the Ruhr University Bochum and the Technical University Dortmund, together forming one of the largest university networks in Germany with interconnected career support measures, especially the Research Academy Ruhr (www.uamr.de/research-academy-ruhr). The entire University community is committed to training, conducting high-impact research and taking scientific advances to the bedside.

In addition, as part of the "National Decade Against Cancer", the BMBF expanded the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) from two to six locations, including Cologne/Essen to promote innovative, patient-oriented cancer research, rapid transfer into the care of those affected and the training of young scientists. The NCT brings together cutting-edge research and state-of-the-art patient care so that patients can be treated optimally. Since scientists and doctors work together under one roof, this shortens the distances from the laboratory to the bedside.