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**

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| NAME OF HOSTING MENTOR  *(last, first, middle, title)*  Tian Tian, MD PhD and Teresa Macarulla, MD PhD | | |
| INSTITUTION / ORGANIZATION  Name: Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO)  Mailing Address *(street, city, state/province, postal code, country)*  Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO)  Upper GI Cancer Translational Research Group  Carrer Natzaret 115-117  08035, Barcelona  Spain | | |
| TELEPHONE / FAX *(country code, area code & extension)* | | EMAIL ADDRESS  tiantian@vhio.net |
| TEL: +34 932543450 ext 8656 | FAX: |
| WEBPAGE: https://vhio.net/pf/upper-gastrointestinal-cancer-translational-research-group/ | | |

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| **RESEARCH FIELD** *(please insert here a brief summary of the research interests of your lab).*  The Upper Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancer Translational Research Group is a dynamic and innovative team of clinical and translational researchers based at the prestigious Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology. Our group is dedicated to bringing cutting-edge research from the "bench" to the "bedside" by focusing on three key areas of interest. Firstly, we are investigating prognostic and predictive factors related to targeted and immune therapies. We aim to identify biomarkers that will help predict which patients will respond best to these therapies, enabling us to provide more personalized treatment options and improve patient outcomes. Secondly, we are generating patient-derived models that are relevant for preclinical research. Finally, we are conducting preclinical and clinical evaluations of novel therapeutic strategies. We are particularly interested in developing molecular therapies that target altered signaling pathways in pancreatic and bile duct cancers. Our group has made significant contributions in this area, pioneering early-phase clinical trials to potentiate anti-cancer strategies against Upper GI cancers and associated translational studies. |

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| **SKILLS** *(please list here the skills – technical and soft – that a potential fellow could learn in your lab)*  As a fellow in the Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Translational Research Group, you would have the opportunity to learn a variety of medical knowledge, together with technical and soft skills, from front-line oncologists and translational researchers.  In terms of **technical skills**, you would have the opportunity to gain expertise in a wide range of cutting-edge techniques, including:   * Generation and maintenance of patient-derived models * Preclinical and clinical evaluation of novel therapeutic strategies * High-throughput multi-omics studies * Bioinformatics and data analysis   These technical skills are essential for conducting translational research in the field of cancer, and by working with us, you would have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with these techniques under the guidance of experienced researchers.  In addition to technical skills, you would also have the opportunity to develop a variety of **soft skills** that are essential for success in any research environment, including:   * Critical thinking and problem-solving skills * Effective communication skills, including scientific writing and presentation skills * Project management skills, including the ability to plan and execute experiments and manage data * Teamwork and collaboration skills, including the ability to work effectively with a diverse group of researchers   At the Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Translational Research Group, we believe in providing our fellows with a **supportive and collaborative environment that encourages personal and professional growth**. We are committed to helping our fellows develop the skills and expertise they need to succeed in their chosen career paths. |

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

*Number of PhD students supervised: 3 PhD defended, 3 ongoing PhD and 2 ongoing MD*

*Number of Postdoctoral Fellow supervised: 1 ESMO fellow*

*Number of MSCA Fellows supervised: 0*

*Other (please specify):….*

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

The Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) is a reference center for personalized medicine in oncology located in Barcelona, Spain. Under the leadership of Dr. Josep Tabernero, VHIO is committed to advancing the understanding of cancer and developing new treatments to improve patient outcomes. As part of this mission, VHIO is establishing a strong postdoctoral program that is open to applicants from around the world.

One of the key benefits offered to Postdoctoral Researchers at VHIO is the support and guidance. For foreign fellows, our Human Resources Department and the VHIO academy offers a comprehensive package that includes:

* **Visa and Immigration Assistance**: VHIO provides support with the visa application process and assists fellows with obtaining the necessary documentation to live and work in Spain.
* **Housing**: VHIO helps foreign fellows find suitable accommodation in Barcelona, including rental apartments and shared housing options.
* **Language Training**: VHIO offers Spanish, Catalan, and English language classes .
* **Career Development**: VHIO Academy provides advanced scientific training, transferable skills training, and support to help PhD and Postdoc fellows develop their research skills and advance their careers in cancer research.
* **Networking Opportunities**: VHIO offers a range of networking opportunities, including seminars, conferences, and workshops, which enable fellows to connect with researchers from around the world.

Overall, the support provided by VHIO is designed to help foreign postdoctoral fellows settle into Barcelona and integrate into the research community. With access to state-of-the-art medical and research facilities and a supportive environment, fellows at VHIO are well-equipped to advance their careers and make significant contributions to cancer research.