

PhD student position

Novel vaccine vectors resist pathogen challenge - VacPath

VacPath is an EU funded ITN program aiming to develop novel vector-based vaccines eliciting mucosal immunity against the intracellular pathogen *Chlamydia trachomatis* (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/365033>). The network joins five academic European research groups and two SMEs within The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark and Italy. PhD students will be appointed at one of these locations and receive additional training through courses and secondments at network partners.

In this project, you will be educated in the diverse aspects of vaccine development, from fundamental research to valorization of results. You will have the opportunity to work in different European laboratories and get a taste of different research cultures.

Project partner Abera Bioscience (www.aberabioscience.com) seeks one PhD student, who will construct, test and further improve the potency of its *Salmonella typhimurium*-based vaccine vectors, including live attenuated bacteria and derived outer membrane vesicles (OMVs). Immunogenicity and efficacy of produced Chlamydia vaccine candidates will be evaluated in collaboration with the network partners. The knowledge generated will be used in tailoring the vaccine vectors for optimal immune stimulation. The PhD student will be positioned at Abera's R&D location at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, which will also act as the PhD granting institution (www.aimms.vu.nl).

Requirements

We are looking for a candidate with the following qualities:

- MSc degree in (molecular/medical) biology, microbiology, biochemistry or related fields
- Substantial experience in carrying out scientific research
- Excellent English oral, written and presentation skills
- Ability to think critically and creatively
- Excellent organizational and communicative skills
- Ability to work as part of an (inter)national team

In addition, the candidate is obliged to adhere to the MSCA ITN-mobility rules associated with ITN, requiring not to have lived for over 12 months, within the last three years, within the country of the hosting institution (i.e. The Netherlands). The candidate further must be in the first four years of their research career and not yet have a doctoral degree.

Our offer

We offer a 36 months position (1.0 FTE) with an attractive salary including a living, mobility and family allowance, according to the MSCA regulations for ESR.

For further information, please contact Joen Luirink (joen.luirink@aberabio.com) or Wouter Jong (wouter.jong@aberabio.com).

How to apply

Applicants are requested to write a letter, in which they describe their abilities and motivation, accompanied by their curriculum vitae and the names and contact information of at least two referees. Applications should be sent by e-mail before the 25th of January to Dr. J. Luirink (joen.luirink@aberabio.com).