



ESR 5: Impact of fungal cell surface variability upon fungal interactions with the host and microbiota

Host Institution: University of Aberdeen, UK

Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is Scotland's third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 140 in the recent QS global league table, Aberdeen is the 'global University of the north'. Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does.

This project will be hosted in the Institute of Medical Sciences, a cutting edge £50 million biomedical research institute which was opened in 1996, and houses over 350 scientists and support staff. The IMS and the AFG have all the essential facilities needed for the successful completion of this project, including microscopy and histology, proteomics and flow cytometry (see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/facilities/index.php>).

The current project is in the framework of FunHoMic: "Deciphering the fungus-host-microbiota interplay to improve the management of fungal infections" a MSCA European Innovative Training Network (ITN) which started on the 1st of January 2019.

www.funhomic.eu

Project background – This project will investigate the molecular mechanisms governing the surface variability of *Candida albicans*, a major fungal pathogen of humans. *C. albicans* clinical isolates display variability at the cell surface that affects the exposure of microbial-associated molecular patterns. This variability influences fungal interactions with the host, and the resident host microbiota, and impacts upon immune surveillance and infection outcome. The project will use a well-established combination of cell wall biochemistry, flow cytometry, microscopy, ex vivo studies of *Candida*-phagocyte interactions, and infection models such as the murine model of systemic candidiasis to investigate pathogen surface variability. The influence of factors derived from the host and microbiota as well as antibiotic treatment on surface variability will be assessed.

Eligibility criteria – Applicants can be of any nationality and must be Early-Stage Researchers in the first four years of their research career and must not have been awarded a PhD. They must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the UK for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment.

This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.

Candidate's profile – The successful candidate will hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in the Life Sciences (e.g. Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Microbiology or Immunology), and preferably have practical experience of successfully executing biochemical, molecular, genomic, microbiological or immunological research. They will be adept at working independently, but will also have strong interpersonal and team-working skills.

We offer – The successful candidate will become an integral member of the Aberdeen Fungal Group an exciting team with a worldwide reputation in fungal pathogenesis. S/he will pursue an exciting, challenging research project at the forefront of modern medical mycology and will gain in-depth interdisciplinary training through collaborations across our international network, inter-sectoral mentoring and secondments, summer schools and webinars. The project will involve secondments to industrial and academic laboratories in The Netherlands and France.

This job opening covers a 3-year research position in the frame of a 3-year PhD doctoral programme. The position is fully funded for 36 months by the European Commission under the H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network Programme FunHoMic.

The Early Stage Researcher (ESR) will be registered for a PhD at the University of Aberdeen and will receive a highly competitive salary of £35,866, which includes a competitive monthly living and mobility allowance and (if eligible) a monthly family allowance.

The University of Aberdeen is an equal opportunity employer. The salary of £35,866 will be paid according to the regulations of the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) and the successful candidate will benefit from a work contract in line with UK national regulations. For further information, please contact Prof. Carol Munro (c.a.munro@abdn.ac.uk; +44 (0) 1224-437485). The project will be co-supervised by Professor Alistair Brown, Aberdeen Fungal Group and Dr Henriëtte Lanz, Mimetas Ltd, The Netherlands.

Terms of appointment

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 12 month probation period. For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/>

Applications – Complete applications should include your CV, a brief statement of your research experience and career intentions, plus the names of at least two academic referees. Applications should be submitted by 31/03/2019 via www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs.