



Hosting offer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2022 at University of Cyprus / Nephrology Innovation Research Group / Biobank.cy Center of Excellence in Biobanking and Biomedical Research

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) are individual research grants offering excellent postdoctoral researchers the chance to develop their skills by means of international mobility. Through the implementation of an original and personalised research project, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to foster excellence through training and mobility and to equip researchers with new skills and competences in order to identify solutions to current and future challenges. University of Cyprus /Nephrology Innovation Research Group invites motivated postdoctoral researchers to jointly prepare an application for the [MSCA-PF-2022 call Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) call ([MSCA-PF-2022](#)) with them as host organisation.

Description of Hosting organisation/group

The University of Cyprus is located in Nicosia, the capital of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. It is situated in close proximity to a large national parkland with easy access to the commercial and financial centres of the city. Nicosia provides a warm cosmopolitan environment with a vibrant social life. The biobank.cy Center of Excellence in Biobanking and Biomedical Research is located within the Shacolas Educational Centre for Clinical Medicine adjacent to Nicosia General Hospital, the largest tertiary medical centre on the island. For more information visit: <https://newdev.ucy.ac.cy/medical/> .

The biobank.cy Centre of Excellence is funded by the European Commission, the Government of Cyprus and the University of Cyprus with a total budget of 38mi euro for developing the Cyprus Biobank as a medical research infrastructure, while also developing genetics and genomics research in monogenic and complex disorders. The teams hosted at the Center have a significant track record in molecular and biomedical research with an extensive network of collaborators across Europe, the USA, and other international institutions. Within its mandate is to characterise the Cypriot genome, an undertaking that led to the discovery and description of distinct genetic disease variants of inherited disorders in the field of nephrology. Apart from genetic studies on inherited kidney disorders, current projects include the study of inherited heart conditions, lung cancer and biomarker discovery for chronic kidney disease. Importantly, a major study aims to elucidating the molecular and cellular pathomechanisms of disease and the preclinical evaluation of synthetic chaperones using a mouse model for Alport syndrome. For more information visit <https://biobank.cy> .

The activities of the Nephrology Innovation Research Group extend into clinical research at the Nephrology and Transplant departments of the Nicosia General Hospital. The department provides renal services to a catchment area of 430000 people. These include outpatient and inpatient care for patients with acute and chronic renal disease. The nephrology ward has a capacity of 12 inpatient beds with facilities for inpatient haemodialysis and haemodiafiltration and it also houses an ambulatory day care unit. The nephrology department also provides plasmapheresis, immunoabsorption and lipoabsortion therapy and has dedicated lists for ultrasound guided native and transplant renal biopsies and tunnelled haemodialysis catheter insertion. The in-centre haemodialysis unit currently provides treatment to more than 300 patients and the peritoneal dialysis community program supports 50 patients. The unit is

equipped with the latest, state of the art haemodialysis machines and has the facility to utilise innovative technology such as bioimpedance spectroscopy in the delivery of patient care.

Topics/expertise

We invite postdoctoral candidates interested in undertaking a placement with the Nephrology Innovation Research Group, within the setting of the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) call ([MSCA-PF-2022](#)). Potential placement can be for 12-24 months and would include a combination of clinical and laboratory research exposure that would lead to development of skills in these areas under the supervision of Prof. Constantinos Deltas and Dr Nicos Mitsides. A combination of clinical and laboratory work can be performed at the Nephrology Department of the Nicosia General Hospital and the Molecular Medicine Research Center, which is the Research Dept of the biobank.cy Center of Excellence in Biobanking & Biomedical Research ([https://biobank.cy/](https://biobank.cy)). The candidate will have the opportunity to function in a highly competitive and stimulating environment with interdisciplinary approaches, surrounded by a group of people with expertise in clinical medicine, molecular and cellular biology, bioinformatics & biostatistics and epidemiology.

Prof. Constantinos Deltas studied Pharmacy at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens. He received his PhD in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, USA. In 1991, while at the Duke University Medical Center, NC, USA, he was invited to return to Cyprus and be amongst the first nucleus of scientists who established and developed the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.

He is Professor of Genetics at the University of Cyprus since 2002, first at the Department of Biological Sciences where he was the first faculty and Chairman and then at the Medical School. He is directing a research lab with special interest in inherited disorders, developing molecular genetics, cell biology and animal model projects. With external competitive funding he was the first to establish a Biobank for genetic disorders in Cyprus, in 2011. More recently, with EU and national funding, he is founder and Director of biobank.cy, a Research and Innovation Center of Excellence, focusing on Biobanking and Biomedical Research, at the University of Cyprus. Amongst others he is leading the Cyprus Human Genome project, aimed to 1000 Cypriot genomes, at first phase. He published more than 150 papers and presented his work in multiple international conferences as invited speaker. In 2014 he was honoured with the Cyprus Research Award-Distinguished Researcher 2014, which is awarded to researchers with long standing experience in Cyprus and who have demonstrated outstanding research achievements with local and international impact, honouring Cyprus.

A detailed profile can be found at:

<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/dir/en/component/comprofiler/userprofile/deltas>

Dr Nicos Mitsides is a Lecturer in Nephrology and General Internal Medicine at the University of Cyprus and a practising Nephrologist at the Nicosia General Hospital. He graduated from the University of Manchester (MBChB) in 2004 and has practiced medicine in the UK for 17 years. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of the UK and holds the Speciality Certificate Examination in Nephrology. Following the award of CCT in Nephrology and General Internal Medicine, he worked as a Consultant Nephrologist at Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust. He held the NIHR Devices for Dignity Nephrology Innovation Research Fellowship and received his PhD from the University of Manchester for his research work on salt and fluid

overload in advanced CKD and haemodialysis. He has extensive experience in building collaborations between the industry and academic and healthcare institutions across the UK and Europe. His academic and research interests lie within the field of clinical Nephrology and in particular the areas of haemodialysis and chronic kidney disease including:

- fluid management in chronic kidney disease
- disease progression in chronic kidney disease
- uraemic toxin clearance in haemodialysis, expanded haemodialysis and hemodiafiltration
- the management of the cardiovascular risk associated with dialytic modalities
- home haemodialysis and the study of the clinical, psychological and socioeconomic impact of implementation of this modality
- cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular chronic kidney disease complications
- clinical trials
- innovation and technology development in renal disease.
- Psychological disease burden in renal disease

Current projects:

- The study of the impact of healthcare and patient related factors on the transition of people with advanced chronic kidney disease onto renal replacement therapy in Cyprus

A detailed profile can be found at <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/dir/el/cb-profile/nmitsi01>

Your profile

The interested candidates could have a medical, biomedical or health science background and an interest in renal disease. These include candidates with primary degrees in biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology, genetics, pharmacology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, clinical psychology and nursing.

Prior experience of renal disease is desirable but not essential for applicants with biomedical and health science backgrounds. Applicants with medical background should have some prior experience in renal medicine. Participation or completion of a speciality training programme in nephrology would be viewed favourably.

It would be preferable if any research proposal or desired skills acquisition is aligned with the supervisors' areas of expertise and academic interest as outlined in the previous section.

- Expected qualifications/expertise of the candidate:
 - Primary degree in medicine, biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology, genetics, pharmacology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, clinical psychology or nursing
 - Please specify the required PhD degrees if applicable: Either taught or research degree in any of medicine, biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology, genetics, pharmacology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, clinical psychology or nursing.
- You must have a completed PhD at the time of the call deadline (14 September 2022).
- Candidates must have a maximum of 8 years full-time research experience from the PhD award date until September 14, 2022. Periods of inactivity in research (e.g.

unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or sick leave) do not count towards the time of research experience.

- For European fellowships, candidates can be of any nationality and must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Cyprus for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before September 14, 2022.
- Highly motivated candidate with an excellent research track record appropriate to career stage, as evidenced by academic publications and other scientific output.

What we offer

- Support and guidance for the preparation of your MSCA PF proposal
- A stimulating, interdisciplinary environment for high-level research.
- The opportunity to experience a different culture and healthcare system.

How to apply?

Indicate your interest by contacting the host institution as follows:

Please contact Prof Deltas (deltas@ucy.ac.cy) and Dr Mitsides (mitsides.nicos@ucy.ac.cy) by email with a short CV and a short statement to indicate your motivation and interest (including the any potential skills you would like to acquire) to prepare a MSCA-PF application in collaboration with the Nephrology Innovation Research Group.

After the supervisor agrees to support you as a MSCA-PF candidate, you can start preparation of MSCA PF project proposal and will be supported further by the Research Support Office of the host university.

For more information please contact the MSCA coordinator of the host institution at rss@ucy.ac.cy