



Hosting offer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2022 at University of Cyprus / Infection and Cancer Laboratory

[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 to identify solutions to current and future challenges.

The **Infection and Cancer Laboratory** at University of Cyprus 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 Laboratory

Infection and Cancer Laboratory at the department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cyprus: Our goal is to establish synergisms among gene expression, microbes and the intestinal metabolites that predispose for heightened intestinal regeneration and cancer. The work of our team aims towards a deeper understanding of critical aspects of intestinal human disease, including regenerative inflammatory signalling, intestinal tumour formation and metastasis. We use *Drosophila* and human genetics, histopathology and quantitative population genetics analysis to identify host genes, microbes and dietary factors facilitating regeneration and intestinal dysplasia. We model human diseases primarily in flies, subsequently in mice and correlate findings with human studies based on the high degree of conservation between *Drosophila* and mammalian signalling pathways controlling intestinal homeostasis and cancer.

Lab website: <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/dir/en/component/comprofiler/userprofile/apidiana>

The Cyprus Intestinal Health Study website: <http://cihs.cs.ucy.ac.cy/>

Topics/expertise

Postdoctoral candidates for an MSCA-PF application are welcome to apply and work on topics within the expertise of the lab, including the modelling of Microbe-Metabolite-Host interactions leading to dysplasia and tumorigenesis using primarily *Drosophila* genetics and intestinal histopathology assays (*Apidianakis & Rahme Nat. Protoc. 2009; Apidianakis et al PNAS 2009; Bangi et al EMBO Rep 2012; Tamamouna et al Development 2020*). Our team broadly studies infectious diseases and carcinogenesis in *Drosophila* and mice exploiting their potential for preclinical trials.

The supervisor, Prof Apidianakis, works at the department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cyprus. He has been trained for 10 years at Harvard Medical School in biomedical research, 6 years as a postdoctoral fellow and 4 years as a Harvard Instructor in Medicine in the field of human infectious diseases and carcinogenesis, practicing his research at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston, USA. He is a Faculty Opinions member since January 2020 at the division of Cellular Death and Stress Responses (<https://facultyopinions.com/>) and an editor in *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*. He has published papers in high impact international peer-reviewed journals, such as *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, *Nature*

Communications, Nature Protocols, Cell Host & Microbe, PLoS Pathogens, The Lancet Infectious Diseases and EMBO Reports. Many of his main author papers are influential in the field of microbial infection and intestinal stem cell research with more than 100 citations each. As an instructor at Harvard Medical School (2008-2011) he attracted competitive funding from various agencies including the Department of Defense (USA) and the Shriners Hospitals for Children. As a Professor at the University of Cyprus (since 2012) he was awarded personal competitive funding from the Marie Curie Career Integration program, the Fondation Sante biomedical research grants program and the Research Promotion Foundation in Cyprus. He has supervised and is supervising: 4 postdoctoral researchers, 9 PhD and 10 MSc thesis students and 28 undergraduate thesis students.

Your profile

More information on our broader work strategy can be found in the following brief article:

<https://www.embopress.org/doi/full/10.15252/embr.201541224>

- Expected candidate qualifications include a PhD in Biology and a kin interest or expertise in cellular biology and genetics of epithelial homeostasis.
- Candidates must have completed their 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.

For more details contact the Research Support Service at the University of Cyprus at rss@ucy.ac.cy

How to apply?

Indicate your interest by contacting the host institution as follows:

Please contact the Infection and Cancer laboratory supervisor Yiorgos Apidianakis at apidiana@ucy.ac.cy with a short CV and motivation letter to indicate your interest in preparing a MSCA-PF application with him.

After the supervisor agrees to support you as a MSCA-PF candidate, you can start the preparation of a 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 by calling at (+357) 22894286 or via email at rss@ucy.ac.cy