

Hosting offer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2022 at University of Antwerp / Global Health Institute

[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.

The University of Antwerp, Global Health Institute 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

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/global-health-institute/about-ghi/>

Topics/expertise

Neglected tropical diseases. Currently we are investigating the association between onchocerciasis (river blindness) and epilepsy in different African countries. Onchocerciasis-associated epilepsy (OAE) is a major public health problem in many remote onchocerciasis endemic areas in Africa. This form of epilepsy includes the nodding syndrome and the Nakalanga syndrome. OAE is preventable by strengthening onchocerciasis elimination programmes. Currently we are conducting research to identify the pathogenesis of this new type of epilepsy and are planning to conduct a randomised clinical trial to investigate the safety and potential benefit of treating onchocerciasis infected pregnant women with ivermectin. The hypothesis is that such treatment may decrease the risk that the children of these women later develop epilepsy. <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/oea/oea-alliance/>

Robert Colebunders: Prof Infectious diseases has a long history of conducting research on HIV, tuberculosis, haemorrhagic fevers and neglected tropical diseases. He was the recipient of an advanced ERC grant to identify the cause of nodding syndrome and ways to stop river epilepsy. His team together with Prof Inge Mertens (proteomics) and Prof Bart Cuypers (Biomedical data scientist) are currently investigating the pathogenesis of OAE.

Your profile

Biomedical research background, research expertise in any of the following topics helminthology, OMICs research, infections during pregnancy, epilepsy, cognitive development of children and clinical trials would be of interest for our research plans.

- 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 Belgium 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.

How to apply?

Indicate your interest by contacting the host institution as follows:

Please contact Robert Colebunders, robert.colebunders@uantwerpen.be, by e-mail with a short CV and motivation to indicate your interest to prepare a MSCA-PF application.

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 supervisor and the Research Support Office of the host university.

For more information on the MSCA PF scheme or the host institution, you can contact the MSCA coordinator of the University of Antwerp: Dr. Liesbet Cockx (Research, Innovation & Valorisation Antwerp, Grants Office): Liesbet.cockx@uantwerpen.be