

Hosting offer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2022 in peripheral nerve and muscle disease

[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 [Peripheral Neuropathy](#) and Translational Neurosciences groups of the [μNEURO Research Centre of Excellence](#) (University of Antwerp, Belgium) invite motivated postdoctoral researchers to jointly prepare an application for the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) call ([MSCA-PF-2022](#)) with them as host organisation.

Description of Hosting organisation/group

The [Peripheral Neuropathy group](#) of [Prof. Vincent Timmerman](#) focusses on unravelling the **disease mechanisms of hereditary neuropathies** via molecular and cellular biology tools, making use of gene silencing and editing in 2D & 3D cell models. The Translational Neurosciences group of [Prof. Jonathan Baets](#) is focussing on the **clinical and molecular genetics of neuropathies and neuromuscular diseases**.

Both teams are **world-leading experts** in the genetics and biology of Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathies, hereditary ataxia's, spastic paraplegia's and related nerve and muscle diseases. Our combined and multidisciplinary research interest is to gain novel insights in the disease complexity and contribute to therapy development.

Both groups are part of the [μNEURO Research Centre of Excellence](#), **an interdisciplinary consortium** that strives to conduct top-level translational neuroscience research on a cell-to-organism wide scale. Our consortium is a unique combination of experts in **fundamental, preclinical and clinical research** on neurological diseases and quantitative multimodal ((pre)clinical) imaging and analysis. The μNEURO professors have a strong experience in research projects with both academic and private partners, including European-funded projects.

Topics/expertise

We are looking for a candidate with expertise in **molecular and cellular neuroscience**, more specifically to perform research with patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells that we differentiate towards neuronal and muscle cells. The candidate will apply mutagenesis or gene editing to **study molecular mechanisms of neuromuscular and neurodegenerative disease**. This is complemented with expertise in bio-informatics, genetics, and disease modelling in 2D & 3D cell systems.

Your profile

- Expected qualifications/expertise of the candidate: PhD in molecular and cellular neuroscience or related discipline
- 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

- A stimulating, interdisciplinary environment for high-level neuroscience research, with state-of-the-art imaging infrastructure and a close connection to the university hospital.
- Support and guidance for the preparation of your MSCA PF proposal from your future supervisor and the μ NEURO research manager.
- An informative MSCA-PF starter package, a dedicated training session “Preparing for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship” (June 2022), advise on institutional aspects and horizontal issues (open science, gender, ethics and research data management) and administrative support from the Grants office of the University of Antwerp.
- Advise and comprehensive support from the [International Staff Office](#) of the University of Antwerp for incoming international researchers.

How to apply?

You can submit your application via e-mail to Liesbeth.vanherp@uantwerpen.be with subject line “ μ NEURO MSCA PF – PN”. Your application must include of a pdf file with the following documents:

- A 1-page motivation letter
- Your academic CV, including a complete list of your publications

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 about the hosting offer, you can contact Liesbeth Vanherp (μ NEURO Research Manager, Liesbeth.vanherp@uantwerpen.be). 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