



# Integrated Training in Dry Eye Disease Drug Development (IT-DED<sup>3</sup>)

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## PhD student - Early Stage Researcher (ESR2) Design, Synthesis and Biochemical evaluation of novel RIPK1 inhibitors

### About IT-DED<sup>3</sup>

The European Network for Integrated Training in Dry Eye Disease Drug Development ([IT-DED<sup>3</sup>](#)) aims to deliver multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial researchers trained to develop new therapies for patients suffering from Dry Eye Diseases (DED). DED is a chronic, multifactorial disease of the ocular surface and is a major and increasing healthcare problem due to its high prevalence and economic burden because of the ageing population and frequent computer/tablet/smartphone usage.

Both the research and training programme of [IT-DED<sup>3</sup>](#) will deliver researchers with an enhanced career perspective and employability, who know how to use their entrepreneurial skills to move drug development projects in DED and other fields to the next technology readiness level.

### About the host organisation

The [University of Antwerp](#) is a young, dynamic and forward-thinking university. In 2016 it ranked 10th in the "Top 50 Universities Under 50 years". The University has over 1700 PhD students, over 620 tenured professors, over 300 assistants and over 2900 tenured researcher and education staff members. It produces over 4000 peer-reviewed scientific publications per year. The European Commission has awarded the University the "HR Excellence in Research" quality label.

[UAMC](#) is a research group of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the [University of Antwerp](#). The medicinal chemistry research of [UAMC](#) is focused on the therapeutic domains of inflammation, cell death/survival and infectious diseases. We aim to develop chemical tool compounds that are used in the characterisation and validation of novel targets, and that will lead to novel hit and lead compounds in drug discovery programmes. [UAMC](#) is headed by Prof. Koen Augustyns. He has extensive expertise in coordinating and leading multidisciplinary international research projects and has been the president of the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC), a society with more than 7000 members.

### Tasks description

Building further on the experience of our medicinal chemistry group with enzyme inhibitors, you will focus on design, synthesis and characterization of novel RIPK1 inhibitors, an emerging kinase target in the field of regulated necrosis.

- You will be responsible for design and synthesis of the novel compounds
- You will perform the analytical and biochemical evaluation of the compounds and derive structure-activity relationships
- You will write project reports for your supervisor on a regular basis
- You will be working within our international group of 25 researchers
- You will get in contact with the other members of this international consortium and will benefit from the training platform

### Profile and requirements

- ✓ Applicants must hold a MSc or equivalent in the field of chemistry or pharmaceutical sciences.
- ✓ Applicants must have a solid knowledge of synthetic organic chemistry and must be prepared to become experts in medicinal chemistry.

- ✓ Applicants can be of any nationality.
- ✓ Applicants must have an ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English to a level that is sufficiently high for them to derive the full benefit from the network training.
- ✓ Applicants must be eligible to enrol on a PhD programme at the host institution (or at a designated university in case the host institution is a non-academic organisation).
- ✓ Applicants must have the necessary academic skills and background to make the success of a doctoral degree.
- ✓ *H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule*: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status are not taken into account.
- ✓ *H2020 MSCA eligibility criteria*: Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).

## Benefits

- ✓ You will be employed by the host organisation for 36 months.
- ✓ A competitive salary plus allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- ✓ You will benefit from the designed training programme offered by the host organisation and the IT-DED<sup>3</sup> consortium.
- ✓ You will participate in international secondments to other organisations within the IT-DED<sup>3</sup> network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

Please, find additional information in the [Information package for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows](#)

## Application

Interested candidates are invited to apply for this position by filing in the form on our website ([www.itded3.eu](http://www.itded3.eu)), via this link: [www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/dry-eye-disease-drug-development/job-openings/submit-your-applicat/](http://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/dry-eye-disease-drug-development/job-openings/submit-your-applicat/)

## Additional information

For additional information about the research project and this individual position, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Koen Augustyns

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