



We are looking for a talented and motivated Early Stage Researcher (ESR) to advance an exciting research project:



Early Stage Researcher (ESR1)

Development and validation of improved hiPSC CM assays to study cardiac safety

About INSPIRE – A European Training Network in Safety Pharmacology

The vision of INSPIRE is to advance and “inspire” Safety Pharmacology by exploring new technological capabilities to addressing emerging cardiovascular safety concerns. Hereto, INSPIRE unites expertise from academic teams, technology-providers, pharmaceutical companies, regulators and hospitals to create a European training platform for 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs). Key innovative aspects of INSPIRE include: i) *in vitro* humanized cardiomyocytes assays, ii) unparalleled *in vivo* hardware/software solutions, iii) *in silico* predictions of haemodynamics, iv) mass spectroscopy imaging of drug exposure, v) exploration of mechanisms of late-onset CV toxicity, as observed in cardio-oncology, and vi) early integration of feedback from industry and regulators.

Overall, INSPIRE constitutes a multidisciplinary and intersectoral training programme with a balanced combination of hands-on research training, intersectoral secondments, local courses and network-wide events on scientific and transferable skills, enabling future R&I collaborations. Hence, INSPIRE will equip the future generation of SP scientists with a wide range of scientific knowledge and the ability to adapt to a dynamic industry.

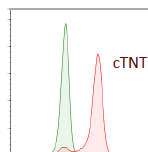
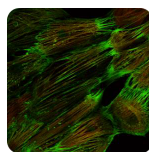
Description of the PhD project

Scientific Objectives:

- To develop and validate next-generation hiPSC-derived cardiomyocyte maturation and assay protocols to better mimic the physiological conditions of the heart.
- Cardiomyocyte maturation will be improved by adjusting medium composition, co-culturing with other cell types and/or 3D culturing.

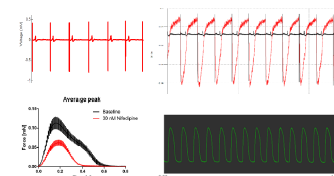
More mature iPSC-derived cardiomyocytes

- Adjusting culture medium composition
- Co-culture with other cell types
- Culture in tissue aggregates



Validated safety assays

- Electrophysiology
- Impedance
- Calcium-transient
- Contractile force
- Metabolism



Tasks and Responsibilities:

- You perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium (training network).
- You deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.
- You publish scientific articles related to the research project of the assignment.
- You (may) contribute (limited) to teaching activities.
- You (may) support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables
- You participate to scientific meetings and conferences to present your research to the scientific community.
- You actively participate in outreach activities aimed to promote your scientific research to a wider audience.
- The selected candidate will get in contact with the other members of this international consortium and will benefit from the tailored training programme.
- The selected candidate will take part in the following planned secondments:
PhD program enrolment and academic secondment at University Maastricht, The Netherlands (P. Volders, Experimental Cardiology, starting month 9 for 3 months) for training on patient-derived hiPSC electrophysiology



studies. Industrial secondment to UCB, Belgium (A. Delaunois, starting month 19 for 3 months) for performing a validation study of the new hiPSC culture protocols with reference compounds.

About Ncardia

Ncardia is an established, globally operating stem cell drug discovery & development company. At Ncardia we believe that stem technology will help to get better medicines to patients faster. The goal of the company is to be the supportive and trusted partner for scientists operating in the hiPSC drug discovery and development space, in particular for cardiovascular and neurological safety and efficacy studies.

Ncardia develops, produces and commercializes highly predictive human cardiovascular and neurological cellular assay systems for safety and efficacy testing. In addition, Ncardia develops and provides its customers with a broad portfolio of services from cardiovascular and neuronal disease modeling to drug efficacy screening.

This position is at Ncardia's location in Leiden, The Netherlands.

Profile & requirements

- ✓ Applicants must hold a MSc or equivalent in the field of Medicine, Pharmaceutical or Biomedical Sciences.
- ✓ Applicants must have a solid knowledge of cardiovascular (patho)physiology and methods for investigating this.
- ✓ Applicants can be of any nationality, but have to comply with the "Mobility Rule (cf. infra)".
- ✓ 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 be, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, 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

- ✓ The selected candidate 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.
- ✓ The selected candidate will benefit from the designed training programme offered by the host organisation and the INSPIRE consortium.
- ✓ The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organisations within the INSPIRE network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

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

Application

Interested candidates are invited to apply for this position by filing in the application form on our website (www.inspire-safety-pharmacology.eu), via this link: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/inspire-safety-pharmacology/job-openings/submit-your-applicat/>.

For additional information

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Ncardia
Stem cell experts

