

Innovative Training Network of the  
European Commission **H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017** no. 765104

## **MATURE-NK**

### **MANUFACTURING TUMOR-REACTIVE NATURAL KILLER CELLS:**

**Translational research training for bridging the bench  
to bedside and biotech business gap**

### **13 PhD students**

Within a newly formed ITN we are searching for 13 PhD students interested in anti-cancer responses of natural killer (NK) cells, the manufacturing of tumor-reactive NK cells and their application in the therapy of leukemia and other forms of cancer. Candidates should have a solid basis for research in molecular medicine, molecular immunology and/or immunotechnologies. 1 position will be available in each of the individual partner laboratories:

- **Ulrike Koehl**, Medical School Hannover, DE
- **Karl-Johan Malmberg**, Oslo University Hospital, NO
- **Jakob Passweg**, University Hospital Basel, CH
- **Daniela Pende**, University Hospital Genoa, IT
- **James Di Santo**, Institute Pasteur, Paris, FR
- **Adelheid Cerwenka**, University Heidelberg, DE
- **Miguel Lopez-Botet**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, ES
- **Ofer Mandelboim**, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, IL
- **Arndt von Haeseler**, Medical University Vienna (bioinformatic), AT
- **Eric Vivier**, Innate Pharma SA, Marseilles, FR
- **Nina Möker**, Miltenyi Biotec, Bergisch Gladbach, DE
- **Jan Spanholtz**, Glycostem Therapeutics, Oss, NL
- **Gerno Schmiedeknecht**, Fraunhofer Institute, Leipzig, DE

The research program will focus on possibilities to amplify the anti-cancer reactivity of NK cells. This will include the improved generation of reactive subsets of NK cells, their activation via agonists and checkpoint inhibitors, their genetic modification by chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) and their cross-linking to tumor antigens by bi-/tri-specific reagents. Appropriate NK cell products will be evaluated in humanized mouse models and a large scale manufacturing process for clinical application will be developed.

The training program pursued will include research training in the individual laboratories with regular exchange between laboratories for all fellows and six Summer/Winter Schools including seminars/workshops in state-of-the art immunotechnologies and specific training courses in bioinformatics, priority rights and biotech business. Fellowships will run for 3 years and start between September 2018 and May 2019.

Applications including CV, publication list (if available), and addresses of two referees should be sent to **Prof. U. Koehl, Medical School Hannover, under the E-mail address:**

**Batkai.Carole@mh-hannover.de**

Selection procedures will start in July and finish with an assessment centre in September, so early application will be an advantage. Candidates are required to undertake trans-national mobility.