



## PIPgen - PI3K/PTEN-related monogenic disease to understand cancer

### 15 full-time Early Stage Researcher Positions

#### HOST INSTITUTIONS:

- **Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute**, Badalona, Spain
- **University College of London**, London, UK
- **Université de Paris**, Paris, France
- **Erasmus MC**, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- **Institut national de la santé et de la recherche / Université de Toulouse III**, Toulouse, France
- **Amsterdam University Medical Centres (UMC)**, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **Cambridge University**, Cambridge, UK
- **Radboud universiy medical centre**, Nijmegen, Netherlands
- **CIC bioGUNE**, Bilbao, Spain
- **Kither Biotech**, Torino, Italy
- **qGenomics**, Esplugues del Llobregat, Spain

**RESEARCH PROFILE:** First Stage Researcher (R1<sup>1</sup>)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME:** HORIZON 2020

**MARIE SKOŁODOWSKA CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER:** 955534

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<sup>1</sup> First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.





### OFFER DESCRIPTION:

The Innovative Training Network (ITN) "**PIPgen - PI3K/PTEN-related monogenic disease to understand cancer**" is recruiting 15 highly motivated PhD candidates through an international transparent and open recruitment procedure. The fellowships are funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme under the ITN-Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement N° 955534

More info at: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en)

### ABOUT THE PIPgen NETWORK

The **PIPgen** network brings together 9 leading European basic and clinical institutions and 3 private companies experts in the PI3K/PTEN- related diseases, to train 15 researchers in a wide range of scientific and complementary competences. Selected candidates will carry out specific projects under the supervision of a Principal Investigator within one of the 11 world-leading European host institutions from the network. They will also perform secondments in other European institutions within the network to provide the needed interactions to achieve research and training excellence, and to improve their future career perspectives.

Fellows will be enrolled in a PhD programme and will receive an outstanding and tailored training designed specifically for them. The embedding within the PIPgen network, with experienced trainers from academia and industry and from two research environments (clinical and basic), offers a unique multidisciplinary and multisectoral training opportunity in the field of PI3K/PTEN-related diseases.

### SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

PIPgen stems from the emerging links between monogenic rare diseases and cancer, and how these fields can cross-fertilise and inform an integrated approach to both their understanding and treatment. Monogenic diseases offer 'clean' molecular, cellular and organismal information about the affected genes, whereas cancer is a compendium of genetic and epigenetic perturbations illustrative of complex diseases. Genetic alterations in the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (**PI3K**)/**PTEN pathway** are a common event in both monogenic rare diseases and in cancer, presenting a truly unique paradigm of which PIPgen will take advantage. PIPgen aims to critically contribute by providing a dynamic learning strategy to enhance our understanding of the PI3K/PTEN pathway based on the molecular, biological and clinical integration of both pathological scenarios. **PIPgen has been conceived with the view to make a real clinical and therapeutic impact without losing focus on the underpinning basic bioscience.**





## 1 PhD POSITION STILL AVAILABLE

### PhD Project 3: Improving recognition of patients with PHTS phenotypes by easy-to-apply sets of clinical criteria

*PTEN* Hamartoma Tumour Syndrome (PHTS) is a rare genetic predisposition that results in a broad spectrum of diseases. Most of these diseases are on their own common in the general population which hampers recognition of these rare PHTS patients. In addition, each disease expression of PHTS is diagnosed by different health care disciplines and at different ages, such as skin lesions (dermatologist), vascular malformation (radiologist), developmental delay (neurology), an enlarged thyroid (endocrinologist) or breast cancer (oncologist/surgeon). We will determine easy-to-apply sets of clinical criteria that can be assessed by each healthcare provider who diagnoses a common feature of PHTS. In a large cohort of PHTS patients and *PTEN*-negative control patients extended clinical characteristics will be collected and assessed. The best performing clinical criteria will be assessed for further implementation.

Host: [Radboud university medical centre](#), NL.

Supervisor: [Prof. Dr. Nicoline Hoogerbrugge and Dr. Janet Vos](#)

Doctoral programme: Radboud University Nijmegen The Netherlands

Envisioned secondments: Ggenomics, cic-BIOgune

**Position requirements: epidemiological and (bio)medical background, and understanding written Dutch is required.**

### REQUIREMENTS:

#### Eligibility criteria:

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any country fulfilling the following criteria:

- Eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Eligible candidates shall at the date of recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract), be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Eligible candidates must have a master's degree relevant for the chosen position (including biology, medicine, biochemistry, bioinformatics or a related discipline, depending on each PhD project) or its equivalent that would entitle them to a doctorate or must hold an official university qualification from a country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTS of official university studies.





Candidates must have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.

**Dutch is required and epidemiological background will be considered**

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

##### **Application and selection process**

The application will be done through an online application platform to be found on the PIPgen website: [www.PIPgen.eu](http://www.PIPgen.eu). Applications must be in English.

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee. The 3 best candidates will be invited for a virtual interview by 14-15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 where the final candidates will be selected.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

##### **Timeline**

- Application deadline: 30th September 2021
- Announcement of preselection results and call for interviews: 11th October 2021
- Recruitment Workshop: Virtual interviews of candidates 14th to 15th of October 2021
- Announcement of pre-selected candidates: 20th October
- Communication of the final results: 25th of October 2021
- Tentative start of the fellowship: Between November 2021 and February 2022.

##### **Benefits**

- 3-year full-time employment contract (salary depends on the country of the recruitment considering both local and MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment).
- Enrolment in a PhD programme (In case of 4 years University Programmes, a 4th year contract will be assured).
- Shared research and innovative multidisciplinary and multisectoral training by experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinic and basic).
- A structured training programme consisting of soft skill courses, targeted workshops, retreats, social events and networking.
- Secondments at other institutions within the PIPgen consortium.
- Gaining experience abroad.
- Opportunities for participation in national and international meetings.





- Enlarged professional network and improved future scientific career perspective in academia and the private sector.

To apply and for further information on the PIPgen network, please visit [www.pipgen.eu](http://www.pipgen.eu)

