PhD student position in Immuno-Oncology

Project title: In vivo shRNA screening to discover new targets involved in dysfunction of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes

Occupation: Full-time
Period: Fixed-term contract (2 years + 2 renewable)
Place: Brussels
Apply no later than: November 15, 2017

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, located at the de Duve Institute in UCL Brussels, offers a PhD position in cancer immunotherapy.

Our group has pioneered the field of cancer immunotherapy by providing the molecular definition of human tumor antigens. Cancer immunotherapy is showing unprecedented success in a number of metastatic cancer types, with a significant fraction of patients showing durable tumor regressions associated with long-term survival. However, a majority of patients fail to respond efficiently. Our current work aims at characterizing the mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapy, following two research lines. One focuses on the modulation of antigen expression in tumors, by characterizing the pathway responsible for the presentation of such antigens at the surface of tumor cells. The second research line characterizes the immunosuppressive mechanisms that take place in the tumor microenvironment and prevent efficient rejection of tumors by the immune system. Our aim is to modulate such mechanisms with pharmacological means in order to improve the clinical efficacy of cancer immunotherapy.

We are looking for a talented, skilled and motivated student, interested by a PhD the field of cancer immunotherapy.

Project:
The project will make use of genetically-engineered mouse tumor models to perform in vivo genetic screens aimed at the identification of novel pathways of immunosuppression in the tumor microenvironment. The screen will be performed by engineering CD8 T cells that will be used for adoptive T-cell therapy. The ultimate goal is to improve the clinical success of cancer immunotherapy by modulating such pathways.

Education and experience:
• Relevant master degree with excellent grades in one of the following fields: Immunology, Oncology, Molecular biology, Biomedical Sciences or Medicine.
• Strong interest in Immunology and Oncology.
• Excellent organization skills, dynamic, and reliable.
• Good communications skills and fluency both in written and spoken English.
• Ability and interest to work in a team.
We offer:
We offer an exciting position in one of the leading research institutes in the field, with a full scholarship for two years, renewable for two additional years. We provide the opportunity to accelerate your skills and join a dynamic team.

Starting date
January 1, 2018

Job location: The job is based in Brussels. Please find more information on our institute on the following websites
http://www.ludwigcancerresearch.org/location/brussels-branch
https://www.deduveinstitute.be/tumor-immunology

How to apply
Your application must contain: an email with subject: PhD Tumor Immunology, to the Head of the research group benoit.vandeneynde@bru.licr.org including:
• Motivation letter, CV, and transcript of degrees/classes
• Name of your current supervisor and Master thesis topic (1 page)
• Contact information of 2 referees.

This vacancy is open until a candidate has been selected with the skills needed; hence, we recommend applying as soon as possible. Only selected applicants will be contacted, within 30 days after all documents have been received.

You can apply for this job no later than November 15, 2017.