



RENALTRACT

Horizon 2020 – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Innovative Training Network (ITN)
Development and Disease of the Renal Tract

2015

RENALTRACT Newsletter 1

NOVEMBER 2015



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RENALTRACT Newsletter

November 2015

➤ Editorial

RENALTRACT network is ready to jump to another stage !

Following a **successful kick-off meeting** held in the heart of the French National Park ‘*Les Calanques*’ on the Institute of Developmental Biology of Marseille (IBDM) premises, RENALTRACT activities are ready to start. **12 Early Stage Researchers** were all chosen on very selective criteria and will bring their experience and commitment to the project.

In this first newsletter, you will find some sections as **Latest Updates, Events, Student life, Carte blanche**, and more to come. Welcome and have a nice reading !



➤ Latest Updates

Social media

RENALTRACT has opened **Facebook & Twitter accounts** where you will be informed about latest news concerning the project and every activities related to it.

Here are relevant links :

Facebook : <https://fr-fr.facebook.com/renaltract>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/RENALTRACT>

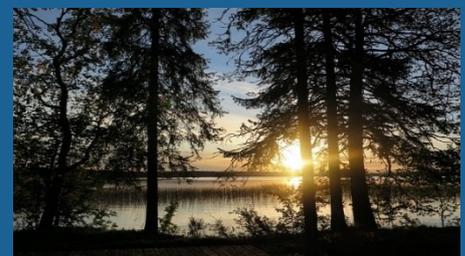
Series of portraits – Meet Our ESRs

On RENALTRACT website, you will find under Science communication section a new serie of portraits '**Meet Our ESRs**' where students are presenting themselves. The goal is **to present their background and the role** they will embody in the project. MOE Series started by Irene in Marseille, Guillermo in Glasgow & Pierbruno in Paris, many more are to come !

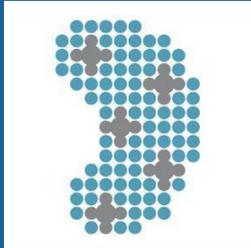
➤ Events

Workshop 1 'Ex vivo' – Oulu, Finland – First Quarter 2016

The first Workshop in Oulu, Finland will be organised on first quarter of 2016. The main theme is 'Ex-vivo ' where students will present **themselves and their Individual Research Projects (IRP)** alongside with technical courses on mice.



EURenOmics meeting – Paris, France – May 2016

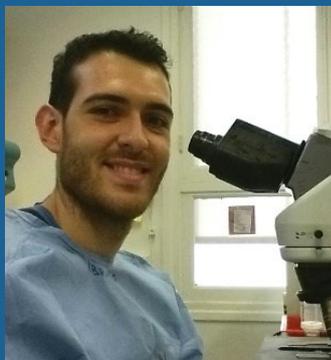


RENALTRACT supervisors and students will be invited in EURenOmics meeting in Paris, France from 11 to 13th May 2016, as for **partnership** between our network and EU funded EURenOmics project. This will be the occasion for RENALTRACT Supervisory Board and Fellows meeting to be held.

➤ Student life

In this section, we will ask some questions to **RENALTRACT students** and how they are adapting themselves **to their new life**.

Pierbruno Ricci – ESR 3 - Paris



Q : Did you have time to visit some places in Paris? Which one do you find most entertaining ?

A : Before starting the PhD I have been for five months at the Pasteur Institut. During that period I had the opportunity to know Paris during my free days: the weekends. It was amazing because I felt like a tourist for entire days! I think I've seen all the "must see" of the city, from the Louvre Museum to the Eiffel Tower, from the Luxembourg Gardens to Montmartre. I really like seeing new places with my girlfriend who lives with me in Paris (she is an

Italian physiotherapist that works in the city) and when we have the opportunity we try to discover a new neighbourhood. However, the place that I found most entertaining was Disneyland Paris but being on the top of the Notre Dame church and see Paris from above is the most fascinating place that I have found.

Q : Perhaps you can also tell us more about Roscoff in Brittany because I think you spent some days recently there...

A : The experience of Roscoff was really interesting and funny. I went in this little city in Bretagne region for 4 days with Laura Goea [ESR 3, CNRS/UPMC] and almost other 50 students. It was a beautiful opportunity to meet PhD students like us and to have a clear idea

about the subjects that each one is studying for the next years. I'm also happy to have new colleagues that I can contact for different kinds of needs, from scientific ones to friendly ones. After Roscoff I felt myself in a part of a big community, with similar objectives, dreams and problems. I'm sure that the next time that we will meet all together like in Roscoff, we will have much more answers than questions.

Guillermo Martinez Corrales – ESR 4 – Glasgow

Q : You are not a newcomer in the UK, is Cambridge very different from Glasgow ?

A : Since last April I have been living in Cambridge, working in Peter Lawrence's Lab. Although I have been only for 1 month already in Glasgow, I can tell that these two cities are very different. Cambridge is smaller, and, if you like walking through the colleges, punting, and having a quiet and relaxed life, is perfect (there are also good places to party!). Glasgow is bigger, more busy in my opinion, with even more people from different countries than Cambridge. I think I will enjoy it as much as Cambridge, but in a different way.



Q : If I am not mistaken, you are playing some guitar ?

A : Yes, that's true. I have gone to classical guitar classes in Spain, for almost 6 years. It was a long time ago, but I still try to keep practising on my own. Just last week I bought a new one by Amazon, just to keep practising.

➤ Carte blanche

This section is a **free zone for one student** (but of course on one topic related to RENALTRACT).

Irene Sanchez Martin – ESR 6 – Marseille



I'm still in the period of adaptation to the city and although I found suitable accommodation, it is not definitive. Marseille is very different from cities where I have previously lived and what I most like about it are its colours, especially the sea. The workplace is in a privileged place surrounded by nature, and I find it very comforting to leave the city (which is very big) and work in that environment. In the laboratory I was fantastically received and everybody has been very friendly. The first weeks were also much hustle because apart from having to start my life in France and all the paperwork involved, I was invited to attend the conference of IBDM. It was very enriching because of the contacts that I could do within my own workplace, and for the references I could take. Besides, the subject on which I've started working for my doctoral thesis was there discussed. I've started working on the role of TSHZ3 in the development of the ureter, with other alternative transcriptional regulators and also on the differentiation of mesenchymal cells, in different mouse models. Although I'm still at the beginning of the project and I have a lot to learn, I have no doubt about having taken the right decision by joining Dr. Fasano's team.