



RENALTRACT

Horizon 2020 – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
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Development and Disease of the Renal Tract

2016

RENALTRACT Newsletter 2

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RENALTRACT Newsletter

February 2016

➤ Editorial

2016: a year in RENALTRACT events

Oulu (Finland), Paris (France) and Glasgow (United Kingdom) were chosen for holding **RENALTRACT Workshops 'Ex-vivo'** (Oulu) and **'Animal models'** (Glasgow), **Short-Course 'Transferable Skills'** (Paris) and **combined RENALTRACT/EURenOmics EU projects meeting** (Paris). We will also probably have the chance to see preliminary results in terms of students' **Individual Research Projects**.

Best wishes for 2016, a very promising year!

Best wishes for 2016!



➤ Latest Updates

ESRs recruitment

12 RENALTRACT Early Stage Researchers (ESR) were all recruited on very selective criteria. **More than 350 people from all around the world submitted their applications to RENALTRACT PhD Marie Curie program.** We are glad to welcome selected applicants in the network where they will play an active and central part.

Workshop 1 ‘Ex-vivo’ in Oulu, Finland – 7 to 11 March 2016

RENALTRACT first workshop will gather students under theme **‘Ex-vivo’ from 7 to 11 March 2016.** Seppo Vainio’s team will supervise this Workshop in Biocenter of Oulu. This will be divided under **two parts:** students presenting themselves and their individual project in a “two-slide presentation” and technical part on mice dissection. More to follow on RENALTRACT website (renaltract.eu)!

➤ Events

RecherchThon – December 2015 – Marseille, France – RENALTRACT Outreach activities

Irene Sanchez Martin (ESR6) in Marseille was presenting her project to the large audience in the RecherchThon held next to the Vieux-Port of Marseille. It was an opportunity to raise awareness on the RENALTRACT project and the work of researcher in that field.



Workshop 2 ‘Animal models’ – June 2016 – Glasgow, UK – RENALTRACT upcoming event



RENALTRACT second workshop will take place in Glasgow, under joint supervision of Shireen Davies and Julian Dow. Held back-to-back with the **Glasgow Science Festival (GSF)**, it will be an occasion for students to **popularise** and to **enhance** their project towards a mostly non-scientific audience.

➤ Student life

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

Laura Goea – ESR 3 - Paris



Q : In few words, could you describe us your first steps in RENALTRACT?

A : The first steps in RENALTRACT were pretty exciting for me. Discovering my new field of research while meeting new people is never a bad idea! There were some sort of action that needed to be done like finding out about local research seminars series, research student societies, plan what seminars and conferences I may need to go, set meeting schedule with my supervisor... Then regarding my research I had to focus on writing a research plan, starting literature review, define methodology and.. start working! I had good days, hard days.. But whatever that direction looks like, I'm ready for it.

Q : What do you find the most challenging in your work so far?

A : Discovering a new field of research was a little challenging for me. Although I worked a little on Zebrafish, my main project was based on cell culture rather than in vivo assays but everybody was so thoughtful and supportive with me. So far I feel it like an amazing journey, an intellectual enrichment and a personal development opportunity.

Filipa Lopes – ESR 7 – Manchester

Q : How do you see your adaptation in Manchester?

A : During 19th century, Manchester was the stage for the industrial revolution, leading to the creation of one of the UK's most vibrant cities. In fact, multicultural, may be one of the best features of this city with approximately 200 languages spoken here. Taking into account this it is easily to find a great diversity of restaurants and drinks as well as shops capable to suit any preference. In addition, Manchester offer a great variety of events and festivals happening across all year in various domains such as music and international sporting events. The University of Manchester is one of the world- leading University with outstanding facilities and the widest range of courses. The campus is an extremely pleasant place close to the city centre with antique and modern buildings, landscape gardens and cafes. It is like a village within the city. Whilst I am here for a short period of time it has been very exciting and enriching to be part of this City, and especially University.



Q : First Workshop in Oulu is coming, what are your expectations?

A : Fantastic opportunity to attend lectures, whose topics encompass not only the biological mechanisms of embryonic development, but also the methodologies and techniques that are and can be extremely relevant to use in order to scrutinize new insights in this field. In particular, it is with great expectation that I am waiting for the imaging biotechnologies lecture and visit the core facilities, since the Biocenter Oulu harbours a center especially dedicated to tissue imaging investigation, offering a wide range of research activities. Confocal and video microscopy is one of those that can be extremely useful to use in my own scientific project. In addition, the practical sessions are a great opportunity to consolidate and acquire new technical/methodological skills, proving resources that can potentially be applied in the scientific projects of each ESR. Besides the above-mentioned it is also a great opportunity to be familiarised to the all ESRs students and their respective projects, fostering this way the networking.

➤ Carte blanche

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

Zenglai Tan – ESR 1 - Oulu



“The research life here in Oulu is very cool except the cold weather in winter. The snow never melts in the long winter, so that the land we can see is always white. Although sometimes it could be as cold as minus 30 degrees, I am getting accustomed after being here for several months. It's very nice to have the chance to work in Prof. Seppo Vainio's group. We are a big and multinational group, so it's convenient to solve the problem when we are doing experiment, especially for the new comer like me. My co-supervisor Dr. Sandra helped me a lot when I started my first experiment, the isolation of nephrogenic zone cells (NZCs) from developing kidneys. As I hadn't used mice as a model for experiments before, it's not easy to dissect the kidneys from the developing mice and not to rupture or break them. After practicing that experiment under the guidance of my supervisor for several times, I can handle it well now. This is just the beginning of my project to analyze the fundamental cellular and molecular control mechanisms of the nephrogenesis. And recently, I am trying to culture the nephron progenitor cells from the developing kidney.

The weather is still cold now. We hope it could get warmer in the near future. And I am also waiting for the ESR colleagues in March for the first Workshop here in Oulu.”

N.B.: There was a mistake in the last newsletter. In the “Student life” section, Pierbruno Ricci is ESR10 in Paris, not ESR3.