



RENALTRACT

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Development and Disease of the Renal Tract

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RENALTRACT Newsletter 3

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➤ Editorial

Mobility is the word

Since early 2016, RENALTRACT Early Stage Researchers are going all around the network institutions as for their **secondments**, **Workshops** (see our article on Oulu Workshop, which was of great success), **conferences** (next one is in Paris with collaboration of EURenOmics, EU project) and **Short-Courses**. This favours interactions inside their Individual Research Project and allows students to enhance techniques and collaborations that are essential for their project and after.

Let's move!



➤ Latest Updates

RENALTRACT/EURenOmics meeting - 8 to 13 May 2016 – Paris, France

Next RENALTRACT meeting will gather all participants of the project (Principal Investigators, Scientific Advisory Board, Early Stage Researchers) in different boards. This will be an occasion to monitor the project and follow discussions about forthcoming activities.



Second part of this meeting will allow RENALTRACT participants to be invited in conferences held in the EURenOmics project meeting, an EU funded project that aims to develop novel tools that will allow to make more accurate diagnoses, predict the disease course and the efficacy of available treatments, and help developing new and better therapies for rare kidney diseases.

Workshop 2 'Animal models' – 16 to 22 June 2016 – Glasgow, UK



Workshop on "Animal models" in Glasgow will be held back-to-back with **Glasgow Science Festival** where ESRs will present their project to a large audience and will see specialists from model organisms such as mouse, drosophila and xenopus giving their expertise to the students.

Students will also have communication tools provided by the University of Glasgow in order to improve their future presentations.

➤ Events

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

First **RENALTRACT Workshop in Oulu on the theme “Ex-vivo”** was the first time where Early Stage Researchers were able to meet up all together. In a friendly and productive atmosphere, they presented their project to each other and our partner at the **Biocenter of the University of Oulu, Finland**. Seppo Vainio’s team was very instructive in providing the students courses and techniques on cell cultures, OPT and dissecting mice and that for sure will be instrumental for the Individual Research Projects. Do not miss our full article on this on RENALTRACT website.



Short-Course 1 ‘Transferable Skills’ in Paris, France – 4 to 9 September 2016 – RENALTRACT upcoming event



First **RENALTRACT Short-Course on “Transferable skills”** with the participation of two out of three RENALTRACT associated partners (MyScienceWork and NIKON France) and Mosaiques will be an essential part of the students’ training next September in Paris. Going from science communication to microscopy with a web seminar on commerce and entrepreneurship and interventions from several experts, it will certainly be very important and interesting training!

➤ Student life

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

Vladimir Kozlov – ESR 2 – CNRS/Institut de Biologie Valrose Nice



Q : You were studying in Russia previously, how is it different in France?

A : “On the undergraduate level, Russia is currently in the process of switching from 5-year Specialist degree (this is what I have) to the 4+2 Bachelor and Master degrees. Also Russian undergraduate education is for the most part structured much more like a school – you are not choosing a major and classes, instead you choose in which department you want to study and the department assigns you and everybody else from your year the same schedule. Almost all the exams are oral - you get 2 or 3 questions and are given about half an hour to prepare your answer. Oral exams can be a problem for shy or anxious students. Graduate school, though, is very much similar in Europe and Russia – you choose a lab, work on a project for 3-4 years, attend a couple of classes, and, hopefully, defend a thesis.”

Q : In Nice, are you integrated with foreign students? If yes, what type of activities do you share?

A : “I’m friends with some of the foreign students, yes. At the PhD pizza club at my institute local and international students meet up and discuss the progress of their research. I’ve met some cool people there with whom I now spend some of my free time – eating out, going to the movies, things like that. We also study French together on the weekends. It is easy to find the events for the foreign students on the social networks, and I would recommend this to everyone who wants to meet new friends, but their French is still far from perfect.”

Pedro Magalhães – ESR 9 – Mosaiques Diagnostics

Q : What are your hobbies? Do you have the occasion to do them in Germany?

A : “Hobbies, nice question! I have a few interests that I love to do in my free time. The most important one is to enjoy my life with people who I care, such as my girlfriend and family. However, for different reasons, it is difficult to do it in Hannover (Germany). Others hobbies that I like and I can perform in Hannover are: going out with my colleagues, watching TV shows (like Game of Thrones and Vikings), attending football games, listening music, doing some sports (football and running) as well as playing computer games.”



Q : As part of your secondment, you should come to Marseille in August. What do you expect from this stay?

A: “In my opinion, it will be a fantastic and exceptional experience. First of all, I will have the opportunity to learn new techniques in genetics and molecular biology as well as to improve my laboratory skills, with Prof. Dr. Laurent Fasano and his team. In addition, it will be my first time in Marseille. At the moment, I've done a research about the city, and for everything that I have read, it seems a fantastic and cultural city, near the sea and enclosed by nature... two environments that I really like. I believe that I will enjoy this beautiful city, also because I will go in a perfect season (summer).”

➤ Carte blanche

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

Jaskiran Kaur – ESR 5 – Medical School Hannover



“Doing Research in Europe has always been one of my dream. Being a member of RENALTRACT and pursuing my PhD under the elite group of Prof. Andreas Kispert is a wonderful opportunity. MHH is highly competitive, in my lab, there is fantastic scientific environment and all lab-members are very friendly. I am still in the learning phase and currently, learning the advanced skills and knowledge about renal development. My first month went in learning the basic fundamental techniques and biology of renal development, full of signatures and documentation works.

Meanwhile, I also travelled to Oulu and completed my first Ex-vivo workshop. I have started working on the role of Notch signaling in ureter development at different embryonic stages in the mouse. My first experience with the isolation of urogenital system was pretty interesting and novel for me, my Post doc is supervising me in all my experiments and techniques. Still, I am at the beginning of my project and I have a lot to learn. At last, I am waiting for the beautiful summer in Hannover and looking forward to the next RENALTRACT meeting in Paris.”