

RENALTRACT Newsletter 6

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RENALTRACT Newsletter

February 2017

➤ Editorial

Back in 2016: a year of RENALTRACT trainings

RENALTRACT Innovative Training Program was very active last year with **4 trainings** provided to the Early Stage Researchers. From Ex vivo hands-on training to “Transferable Skills”, through Animal models presentations, Glasgow Science Festival and combined meeting with FP7 EU project EURenOmics, 2016 was of great importance in the general training program. A wide range of skills were developed. We believe that 2017 is the year of individual projects maturation and that all techniques acquired will be implemented in the very near future.



➤ Latest Updates

RENALTRACT mid-term review meeting – Marseille, France – 24 March 2017



RENALTRACT mid-term review meeting will take place in Marseille next March. It will be an occasion to review progress of the project with the European Commission Project Officer with all scientists-in-charge and Early Stage Researchers. Open discussions and results presentations will be organised in the frame of this meeting.

RENALTRACT International Symposium - 2018

This is the first time we are mentioning the **International Symposium** in the RENALTRACT Newsletter, but certainly not the last one. The final RENALTRACT event in 2018 will be organised by the ESRs. Strong abilities in coordination and management will be required and the first steps in its organisation are already very promising. More information to come very soon on this!



➤ Events

RENALTRACT Young Researchers Training Workshop – Marseille, France – 23 March 2017



RENALTRACT Young Researchers Training Workshop will see high-level scientists to exchange with the ESRs and the latter to present their posters with early results of their individual projects. Dissemination process will constitute here the major part of this workshop and communication and networking skills will be solicited.

RENALTRACT Short-Course 2 “Science values and research responsibilities” – Bidart, France – 12 to 16 June 2017

RENALTRACT second Short-Course on the theme “Science values and research responsibilities” will be organised by RENALTRACT Partner Organisation L’Atelier des Jours à Venir next June in South West France. A large focus will be made on responsibilities towards research, and specifically on helping ESRs to become active and responsible members of the research communities.

L’Atelier des



Jours à Venir

➤ Student life

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

Jaskiran Kaur – ESR 5 – Medical School Hannover (Germany)



Q: Before starting your PhD in Hannover, you were already in Köln (Germany), could you tell us about this experience?

A: “Living in Köln was one of the most magnificent part of my life in terms of science and social life. Köln is an international city with lots of people from different corners of the globe. Away from my homeland (India), Köln provided me a feel of second home. In terms of research, Köln is hub for Aging research as top aging research institutes are located in the city. I moved to Köln in Feb 2015 and joined the lab of Dr. David Vilchez at CECAD. Dr. Vilchez’s laboratory is focused on defining the mechanisms underlying protein homeostasis (proteostasis) regulation in stem cells. Their final goal is to determine whether intervention of these proteostasis mechanisms slow down aging and protect from the symptoms associated to age-related pathologies by using *C. elegans* as a model organism. I really liked to work with this small creatures and most beautiful part of *C. elegans* is easy gene-manipulation. In Vilchez lab I learned many gene-editing and molecular biology techniques which are proving me a benchmark to initiate my PhD easily. Lastly, do visit Köln once in your life to see colorful Köln carnival and historical Köln Dom.”

Q: Why did you choose to stay in Germany and to be enrolled in Marie Curie program?

A: “I was born and brought up in India I did my schooling and Master’s degree there. When I was considering my PhD, the only constraint on the location was that it should be somewhere ideal for my PhD and pleasant to live. Germany has shown itself to be a wonderful place to live, rich in history, culture and innovation. Germany has given leading scientists to the world. Moreover, German universities and research institutions are ranked among the best in the world. Arriving in a country where I did not speak the native language was definitely a challenge, however it resulted in development of my personality in various unforeseen ways.

Overall, staying in Germany is a really good experience. Doing a PhD in Europe is a well-rounded, rich experience in terms of high quality research thanks to Europe's well-funded research programs.

When I moved to Köln, I was looking for a prestigious fellowship available for pursuing PhD in Europe. I applied for Marie Curie program as it provides a great overall improvement and grooming for a future scientist. Also, the project in Professor Andreas Kispert's lab was of my interest as it combines high impact research on both development and disease. Getting enrolled in Marie Curie program is an extraordinary and illustrious opportunity anyone could dream of to start with their doctoral research."

Irene Sanchez Martin – ESR 6 – CNRS/Institut de Biologie du Développement de Marseille (France)

Q: Back in the past, you studied veterinary techniques, how does it help you in your current position?

A: "Veterinary medicine provided me with a background and tools that are very useful in my thesis. I studied subjects such as embryology, genetics, histology, physiology and pathology, which are often part of my work in the laboratory. Besides, it obviously made working with animals familiar to me, which makes easier working with mice, for instance, as I'm actually doing. I am very proud of the clinical vision I developed in the University of Helsinki and in the clinical Veterinary Hospital In Madrid. I find it a perfect complement for developing my career in experimental science, which I'm doing thanks to this PhD.

This PhD requires multidisciplinary view and work; my preliminary education prepared me for such environment, and it is that multidisciplinary aspect what inspires me the most."



Q: Recently, you performed a secondment inside RENALTRACT network at the University of Oulu (Finland). How was that useful for your project?

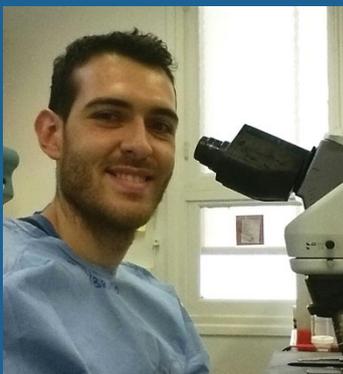
A: "I did my secondment in Biocentre Oulu, University of Oulu, Finland between 9th September and 1st October. I learnt to perform Luciferase assay and I did some experiments for analysing some target genes for Tshz3. I improved cell culture for this technique, I learned about cell transfection and plasmid role in Luciferase assay. Seeing new techniques

and different ways of working gives new perspectives on how to do things, I think it is always enriching. I went with the very specific ideas of what to learn there and what to do, my supervisor Dr. Laurent Fasano helped me to make it this way so that between this and the people of the Laboratory of Oulu, who were very helpful and provided me with the tools and resources, my three weeks there were a success and I could come back with some preliminary results in that record time.”

➤ Carte blanche

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

Pierbruno Ricci – ESR 10 – CNRS/Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris)



« Hi everyone, this is Pierbruno Ricci from Paris!

My project progresses well and I am optimistic about some new experiments that will start soon. I am trying to demonstrate the involvement of some microRNAs in a mouse model of a rare disease called Renal Cyst and Diabetes syndrome.

I use an interdisciplinary approach and probably this is the reason why I love this project so much. One week I work with bacteria to obtain plasmids, another one I analyse some data on the computer, some days I work with cell cultures, while others I take pictures at the microscope and so on. It is thrilling!

But the most recent fascinating experience took place in Hannover during my “secondment” in December 2016. I went in the company “Mosaïques Diagnostics And Therapeutics AG” where my colleague Pedro Magalhães is doing his PhD under the supervision of Dr. Petra Zürgbig. It was a delightful and productive week. We planned everyday our work and I even had the opportunity to analyse some mice’s urine samples that I had brought from Paris. The results obtained during my “secondment” were outstanding, so much, that probably Pedro and I will participate in a publication of my supervisor Prof. Silvia Cereghini. We are very happy about this!

During that week I became aware of one of the purpose of RENALTRACT training program: it is not a just a PhD project but a collaborative experience, an ambitious mission that could give amazing results if well managed!”