



**RENALTRACT**

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

2018

# RENALTRACT Newsletter 10

OCTOBER 2018



RENALTRACT has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement N°642937

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# RENALTRACT Newsletter

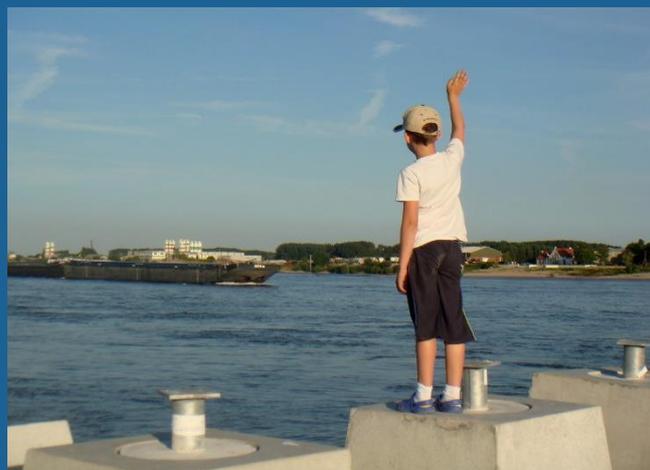
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## ➤ Editorial

### The end has no end

This is the time to say goodbye to RENALTRACT Early Stage Researchers finishing their thesis but heading towards a bright future. All the trainings acquired, all the skills learnt, all the science produced but most of all, all these interactions are and will be of great value in their future careers as high-level scientists. RENALTRACT project management team is wishing them all the very best in the future and truly believe they will become leaders and specialists in their field of research.



## ➤ Events

**RENALTRACT International Conference “Developmental Nephrology and Future Therapies”  
& UK Nephrogenesis Workshop – Manchester, UK – 11- 13 April 2018**



**The last RENALTRACT event consisted of the organisation of the International symposium** by the 12 Early Stage Researchers at the Royal Northern College of Music, University of the Manchester (UK) from 12 to 13 April 2018. They took care of the organisation, management and they participated as speakers in this meeting entitled **“International conference on Developmental Nephrology and Future Therapies”**. Several sessions took place at the Concert Hall and saw multiple exchange of views on the subject during these two days. On top of that, the ESRs also participated in the UK Nephrogenesis Workshop, an event organised for more than 20 years now and which gathered high level scientists from the field.

➤ Further thoughts (science or not...)

ESR 1 – Zenglai TAN – University of Oulu, Finland



“It was a great honor for me to be one of the ESRs under Renaltract network. During the last three years, not only did we perform scientific research but also built up good friendships »

ESR 2 – Vladimir KOZLOV – CNRS/Université de Nice, France



“I’m grateful to RENALTRACT for all the advantages and opportunities we got while working on our projects – not many PhD students are as privileged as us. Together, we got a closer look at an academic world, we expanded our scientific contacts across Europe and we participated in science organization and outreach events »

ESR 3 – Laura GOEA – CNRS/Sorbonne Université Paris, France



“A PhD is never an easy experience. You have your ups and downs and it's always helpful to have close to you other students and researchers who are on the same path. In a consortium like RENALTRACT things turn around. I have experienced amazing talks, good seminar and efficient trainings. I meet the best research in the domain and I made some friends for life. I'm happy I was part of this network and I would advise future students to apply to such project. »

#### ESR 4 – Guillermo MARTINEZ CORRALES – University of Glasgow, United Kingdom



“Being part of this network has been a very good experience for me. I always heard that doing a PhD is very hard and stressful. Even though this has been true in some moments of my PhD, the RENALTRACT consortium has helped me to make the most of it, through amazing workshops, talks and meetings. As a 'Drosophilist' you do not usually have the chance to interact with different research backgrounds and fields, but thanks to this network I had the chance to do so, which is very beneficial for anyone's research. Aside from the science, it has been a great opportunity to meet people from all around the globe and forge new friendships. I hope we see each other in the future! »

#### ESR 5 – Jaskiran KAUR – Medical School of Hannover, Germany



“I cannot believe this is already coming to an end. Three years passed by so quickly in a bunch of a time. At the end of our auspicious journey in RENALTRACT I would like to thank every member of this organisation. I had a great time with RENALTRACT programs, respected members and my wonderful colleagues. Though we might not see each other but we should keep this network going on. I feel privileged to be a part of Marie Skłodowska-Curie scholarship; this is the best opportunity that one can have and dream of. Thank you for everything RENALTRACT”

#### ESR 6 – Irene SANCHEZ MARTIN – CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université, France



« I am in the final stretch of my thesis and my Marie Curie grant ended on September 30, 2018. It has been three intense years of training and research in the laboratory, where I learnt a lot and grown professionally and personally. I am very grateful to all the people who have been part of this RT program. I want to thank in a special to Dr. Laurent Fasano, for the good training received and for the opportunity to be part of RT program. »

#### ESR 7 – Filipa LOPES – University of Manchester, United Kingdom



'Three years! Time flies when you're having fun! Now that we reach the final stages of this programme, I would like to express my gratitude towards the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant for funding RENALTRACT, to Laurent Fasano for the the fantastic leading and my supervisors, Adrian S. Woolf and Natalie J. Gardiner for the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary journey and for all the insights provided during these three years. Undoubtedly, being part of this programme, largely contributed to improve not only my scientific but also personal skills. Working in partnership with colleagues of all over the world towards a common goal, in a multidisciplinary and collaborative environment is a great strength and the quality of the work produced is a statement to that. »

#### ESR 8 – Pauli TIKKA – University of Heidelberg, Germany



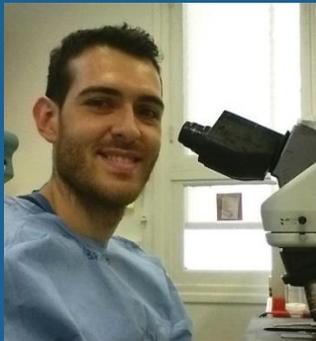
“I was very happy to participate the RenalTract project as a PhD student within computational biology. My tasks included making computational models of early nephrogenesis with CompuCell3D program, and programming with python. Together with all the project meetings all around Europe, the time went very quickly, and I would like to thank you all the project members for great initiative, enthusiasm and patience. Hoping to encountering you in the research field also in future!”

#### ESR 9 – Pedro MAGALHAES – Mosaiques Diagnostics - Hannover, Germany



“During these last three years, Renaltract provided me an amazing road of different experiences. In my PhD project, I had the opportunity to comprise two main research areas: clinical proteomics and kidney diseases. Concerning my scientific career, Renaltract opened new paths, besides it gave me the chance to meet a fantastic group of PhD students as well as Principal Investigators.”

**ESR 10 – Pierbruno RICCI – CNRS/ Sorbonne Université Paris, France**



« As all the best adventures, Renaltract is coming to an end for me. I discovered the real world of research, I met brilliant scientists, I learned how to write a thesis, how to present in front of a wide public and how much is important to spread knowledge. I went to international congresses, I experienced unforgettable secondments and I found authentic friends. When I applied, three years ago, my motivational letter ended with "I would like to exceed your expectations", but the truth is that Renaltract and Marie Curie Actions exceeded my expectations. »

**ESR 11 – Saurav GHIMIRE – University of Glasgow, United Kingdom**



« Three years have just passed by in the blink of an eye. It feels like yesterday I became part of this wonderful consortium RENALTRACT. Getting a golden opportunity to work with 12 ESRs, 12 PIs at different institutes across Europe has been the beauty of this programme. I would like to use this platform to thank my supervisors Prof. Julian Dow, Prof. Shireen Davies and Dr. Selim Terhaz for their supervision throughout my PhD. I would not have got this far had I not received encouragement and support from them at every step. This experience has taught me, not only how to be a good researcher, but also to become a good person. Additionally, I would like to thank the very efficient RENALTRACT administration structure which has always been with us during our highs and lows. On the broader side, I must mention the planning of academic curriculum, training and opportunities provided by this consortium will definitely help me to enlighten my career ahead. I hope to meet, work or collaborate with members of RENALTRACT in the future. »

**ESR 12 – Gunjan PANDEY – University of Heidelberg/ACQUIFER, Germany**



“RenalTract network turned out to be the much needed backbone in the framework of my career. The expertly designed project assisted in my transition from following the predefined curriculums at undergraduate level to be the planner of my own research work in absolutely no time. The program not only identified and refined my current skillset but exposed me to several new experiences which in turn have and are adding positively towards my personality. Opportunities such as attending and presenting research work at international platforms combined with the public outreach activities taught me to express and comprehend science from both professional and non-professional angles. I am grateful to my supervisors who have always been supporting and guiding me with my work. Last but not least, I am extremely thankful to the network for introducing me to a group of ambitious, fun and optimistic ESRs. Their bright company has provided me with vivid memories and lifelong friendship across many different corners of the world. :) In the end, I would like to once again express my kind regards to all the members of the network for bringing this amazing consortium into existence and letting me be a part of this experience. »