



The Regensburg Center for Interventional Immunology (RCI), University Regensburg, Chair for Gene-Immunotherapy, Univ.-Prof. Abken, is seeking applications for a full-time

Early Stage Researcher (f/m) PhD fellowship

to be employed under a contract until 12/2020.

The Research Group Prof. Abken at the Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne, moving this summer to the Regensburg Center for Interventional Immunology, is member of the European Network on Anti-Cancer Immuno-Therapy Improvement by modification of CAR and TCR Interactions and Nanoscale Geometry (EN-ACTI2NG; <http://www.enacti2ng-itn.eu/>), formed by 12 academic, clinical and industrial institutions from Spain, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom offers a multidisciplinary training for 10 early stage researchers in the development and analysis of engineered tumor-specific immune receptors. This network, funded by the H2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Action program (GA 721358), emanates from recent clinical evidence that T cells expressing engineered tumor-specific immune receptors can eradicate tumors that do not respond to conventional treatment. This important therapeutic approach is in a very early phase of development and requires a well-trained workforce to address challenges such as development of tumor-specific receptors for a wider array of tumors, improvement in efficiency of these receptors, better on/off-target toxicity safety profiles and more efficient transfer of basic research findings to the clinic.

The network brings together experts in (1) biochemical and functional analysis of immune receptors, (2) development and (pre-)clinical testing of new tumor-specific immune receptors, (3) clinical grade preparations of cancer-specific immune cells, (4) superresolution imaging and biophysical analysis of these receptors and (5) development of microfluidic devices for microscopy-based high-throughput screening of recombinant immune receptor-expressing T lymphocytes. Individual projects benefit from the complementary expertise provided by the other consortium members, facilitated by project-specific secondments at the participating institutions. Research-based training will be complemented with extensive training in career development and communication and dissemination methods. The institutions have arranged access to doctoral programs of the hosting or affiliated institutions. A brief hyperlinked description of the research project to be developed by the recruited student can be found under <http://www.enacti2ng-itn.eu/> , menu PhD projects, 3UKK. Candidates are encouraged to contact Prof. Abken before submitting their applications.

Your responsibilities will include:

- experimental cancer biology and immunology research on the highest level
- laboratory management
- teaching to undergraduate students

Minimum qualifications:

- possession of/finishing the program leading to a degree (usually the Master Degree) in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, (Bio-)Physics, Engineering, Medical Sciences which would formally entitle access to a doctorate. Applicants that are still in the course of obtaining the qualifying degree should include in their application an official declaration by their program director specifying the date at which the degree will be awarded.

As mandated by EU regulations, the applicant shall, at the time of recruitment by the host organization, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of her/his research career and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. She/he should also fulfill the mobility rule: at the time of recruitment by the host organization, the researcher must not have resided or carried out her/his main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

The group leader and his institution place strong emphasis on gender equality and seek to increase the proportional representation of women in this field. Women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Suitably qualified women will be given preferential consideration unless other applicants clearly demonstrate superior qualifications. We also welcome applications from disabled candidates, who will also be given preferential consideration over other applicants with comparable qualifications.

The successful candidate will be employed under a contract in a full time position, and is strongly encouraged to embark on a doctorate in their host or associated institution. Competitive salary is according to EU-mandated pay scales and includes a generous mobility allowance and, if applicable, family allowance.

Applicants can contact Prof. Dr. Abken before submitting their applications. Applications have to include a CV, including a valid e-mail address and telephone number, and should include a copy of their qualifying degree and obtained grades, a letter of motivation and 2 recommendation letters. These documents should be sent in a single pdf file to the following e-mail addresses: hinrich.abken@uk-koeln.de, hinrich.abken@ukr.de and enacti2ng@cbm.csic.es. After a first check of fulfillment of the EU-mandated eligibility criteria Prof Dr. Abken will contact individual applicants.

Earliest possible hiring date: August 1, 2018

Please address telephone enquiries to Prof. Abken at +49 221 478-89614 or by email: hinrich.abken@uk-koeln.de or hinrich.abken@ukr.de

Further information is available at <http://www.enacti2ng-itn.eu/>