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Post-Doctoral position in translational research on the evaluation of liquid biopsy/circulating DNA analysis in oncology at the IRCM/INSERM Montpellier, France

A 33 months post-doctoral position funded by the European H2020 grant agency is open for a talented and highly motivated post-doc fellow to join a research group to contribute to the study and evaluation of circulating DNA analysis.

Circulating cell-free DNA (cfDNA) is a potential source of tumor material available with a simple blood sampling enabling a non-invasive quantitative and qualitative analysis of the tumour genome. CfDNA analysis has a great potential especially for cancer screening, prognosis and monitoring of the efficacy of anticancer therapies. Dr. Thierry's team is pioneering in clinically implementing cfDNA analysis by demonstrating its clinical validation as well as its clinical utility, and now co-organized ongoing and future several clinical assays on the evaluation of this diagnostic approach to detect the minimal residual disease, to monitor treatment and the surveillance of the recurrence as well as screening test. The successful applicant will have various responsibilities in researching new analytical methodologies, designing study models, performing analysis, data recording, and participating to the organization of the team work within the European LIMA project.

1. Thierry AR, et al. Clinical validation of the detection of KRAS and BRAF mutations from circulating tumor DNA. *Nat. Med.* 2014 Apr;20(4):430-5.
2. Thierry AR et al, Clinical utility of circulating DNA analysis for rapid detection of actionable mutations to select metastatic colorectal patients for anti-EGFR treatment. *Annals Oncol.* 2017 Sep 1;28(9):2149-2159.
3. Thierry AR et al Circulating DNA demonstrates convergent evolution and common resistance mechanisms during treatment of colorectal cancer. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, 2017 Aug 15;23(16):4578-4591.

Context: The candidate will be part of the LIMA project aiming at evaluating cfDNA diagnostic potential in the course of the management of locally advanced cancer (Breast and rectal cancer). The team "Integrated Research for the Personalized Medicine in Digestive Oncology" within the Institute of Research on Cancerology of Montpellier provides a unique training environment for both discovery-based and translational therapeutic oncology research combining medical doctors and researchers from both fundamental and clinical fields. In addition, this will be enlarged through the close collaborative works with the other European partners from UK, Netherlands, and Germany.

Requirements: The ideal candidate should hold a PhD or MD with a strong background with molecular biology. Individuals with additional working knowledge in Q-PCR or DNA sequencing are strongly encouraged to apply. Good knowledge of English, interpersonal and communication skills are also required. Please send a CV, names and contact information of three references and a short description of your scientific interests by email to Dr. A.R. Thierry alain.thierry@inserm.fr

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