

## Postdoctoral researcher - Cancer biology

### Cancer Ecosystems and Metastasis Laboratory (CEMLab)

#### Position

The **Cancer Ecosystems and Metastasis Laboratory (CEMLab)** at the **Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**, led by **Panagiotis (Takis) Karras**, is seeking talented a **postdoc** with a recent PhD or MD/PhD and experience in Cancer Biology/Biochemistry/Molecular Biology. The candidate will focus on a project to better characterize the drivers of cancer metastasis, profile the inter- and intra-tumor heterogeneity and plasticity combining mouse models and clinical samples. The successful applicant will join the **ULB Faculty of Medicine** and the **Institute Jules Bordet** within the campus.

#### About CEMLab

**CEMLab** investigates the cellular and molecular mechanisms driving the metastatic cascade and explores how the tumor ecosystem evolves in primary and metastatic organs. Our goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the molecular mechanisms and cell-cell interactions that favor metastasis and promote tumor outgrowth in distant organs.

#### Profile

We are seeking motivated candidates with a **PhD** in biomedical sciences, molecular biology, biochemistry, or a related field, and a strong background in cancer biology. **Experience with mouse models is mandatory**, while a background in melanoma biology is highly *desirable*. Candidates should have proven laboratory experience in molecular and cellular biology, a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals, and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team. Excellent organizational skills and strong interpersonal communication skills, both verbal and written, are essential.

#### What we offer

We offer a full-time, 2-year funded contract with the possibility of extension, providing an engaging research environment that emphasizes quality, professionalism, and teamwork. The position offers the opportunity to work closely with physicians in a collaborative team setting and includes access to training courses for professional development. Immediate incorporation is available, and the salary will be commensurate with experience, following ULB's pay scale.

## Want to join us?

Interested candidates should send their application via email to **Panagiotis Karras** at [panagiotis.karras@ulb.be](mailto:panagiotis.karras@ulb.be), including a cover letter detailing relevant skills and experiences and a CV for assessment. Name and contact information of **two references**.

## Deadline

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **Early submissions are encouraged as the position is available for immediate start.**

## Relevant publications

**Karras P**, Black J., McGranahan N. and Marine J-C. Genetic versus non-genetic driver mechanisms of metastasis. *Nature* 629, 543–554 (2024).

Nowosad, A., Marine, J.-C. & **Karras, P.** Perivascular niches: critical hubs in cancer evolution. *Trends Cancer* (2023).

**Karras, P. et al.** A cellular hierarchy in melanoma uncouples growth and metastasis. *Nature* **610**, 190–198 (2022).

X. Li, **P. Karras**, R. Torres, F. Rambow, J.v.d Oord, J.C. Marine, L. Kos. Disseminated Melanoma Cells Transdifferentiate into Endothelial Cells in Intravascular Niches at Metastatic Sites. *Cell Rep.* **31**, (2020).

**Karras, P. et al.** p62/SQSTM1 Fuels Melanoma Progression by Opposing mRNA Decay of a Selective Set of Pro-metastatic Factors. *Cancer Cell* (2019).