



PhD Student

ERC Proof-of-Concept Funded Project: Novel inhibitors for obesity-associated liver cancer

We offer a shared full-time position at the
Signal Transduction & Metabolism Laboratory
Université libre de Bruxelles – Redox Signaling laboratory/Organic
Chemistry Research Group Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Job description

The Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory (www.stmlaboratory) led by Dr Esteban Gurzov, the Redox Signaling laboratory (www.messenslab.sites.vib.be/en) led by Prof. Joris Messens, and the Organic Chemistry Research Group (<https://orgc.research.vub.be/home>) led by Dr Steven Ballet seeking a highly motivated PhD student to develop and explore novel inhibitors for obesity-associated liver dysfunction and hepatocellular carcinoma. The successful applicant will be part of joint PhD project funded by the European Research Council Proof-of-Concept (PI Gurzov).

Project description:

The project will take advantage of in silico drug design, chemical synthesis, biochemical assays, hepatic

cancer cell models, bioinformatics and human liver specimen analysis. The objective is to identify novel molecules that can prevent or reverse the mechanisms by which obesity drives the development of hepatocellular carcinoma, paving the way for innovative therapeutics to combat this disease.

Join Our Joint PhD Program!

Embark on a journey in an international, world-leading environment dedicated to creative science. We foster research excellence and drive discoveries in metabolic diseases through collaborative teams of experts.

Why Join Us?

- We are committed to scientific rigor and reproducible findings, shaping the future of metabolic research.
- Our vision is to translate fundamental science into clinical applications through collaboration between scientists, physicians, and industry leaders.

Candidate Profile:

- Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Bioengineering, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, or Chemical Biology.
- Experience in chemical design/engineering.
- Advantageous: Experience with (in silico) drug screening.
- Advantageous: Experience with biochemistry assays.
- Advantageous: Experience with models of obesity, cancer, or liver dysfunction.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English.
- High motivation, flexibility, and innovative, creative thinking.

Come and join us in making groundbreaking contributions to metabolic research!

Interested ?

Applications should be sent directly to esteban.gurzov@ulb.be, Joris.Messens@vub.be, and steven.ballet@vub.be

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Starting date: June 2025 (earliest).

Deadline for the submission of applications: April 30th 2025