Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Immunotherapy, CAR-redirected T cells against B-cell malignancies
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship - Oslo universitetssykehus HF

Oslo University Hospital is Norway's largest hospital, and conducts a major portion of medical research and education of medical personnel in Norway. The hospital's charter is three-tiered, with both national, regional and local medical responsibilites in various disciplines. Oslo University Hospital employs 20 000 people and has an annual budget of NOK 22 billion.

One Postdoc position (Norwegian Cancer Society) is available for a period of three years, from June 2016. This is a shared position at the Section for Cancer Immunology/IKF (Smeland/Myklebust) and Section for Cellular Therapy /KKT (Kvalheim), Radiumhospitalet-OUS.

The Section for Cellular therapy is home to one of Europe's biggest and most modern GMP facilities for cellular products and also provides cellular products for industry trials abroad. The section counts 35 employees and the research focus of the translational research team at the section is the development of new immunotherapy treatments for cancer. This includes the pre-clinical and clinical development and testing of improved cancer vaccines and adoptive T cell therapy.

The Smeland lab consists of 13 members and is one of seven groups in Centre for Cancer Biomedicine, University of Oslo (Centre of excellence). The research focus of the lab is to develop novel biomarkers and identify targets for therapeutic intervention in B-cell lymphoma.

The candidate will be under the supervision of Sébastien Wälchli (project leader).

Job description/Project description:

By using the hospital collection of patient samples and hybridoma, we have isolated antigen receptors (T-cell Receptors (TCR) and antibodies, respectively) that have a great potential. We herein open a postdoc position to support the development of novel Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR), which is a novel generation of therapeutic molecules consisting of the fusion of an antibody binding domain and the signaling machinery of the TCR. The project will involve (1) identification of candidate antibodies, (2) design of the CAR molecules and (3) improvement of the product by comparing designs. In addition, cellular work including cytotoxic studies, redirected cells analysis and *in vivo* mice experiments will be performed with the aim of bringing these CARs to the clinic. We believe that the synergy between our two labs will generate an ideal environment for a creative scientist to develop a strong translational research project.

Qualifications:

Immunotherapy is a growing and competitive field, thus the project needs to move fast. Only highly motivated candidates should apply for this fellowship. He/she should be able to work independently and develop his/her own project, but is importantly expected to be a strong team player and actively participate to general lab progression effort.

The candidates must have a PhD or other corresponding education equivalent to a Norwegian doctoral degree in molecular biology, cell biology, biophysics or biochemistry. We are *exclusively* seeking researchers with strong expertise in molecular biology (gene cloning and expression using viral systems) and specific T cell work (T-cell manipulation such as functional assay or profiling). Applications will not be considered if the candidate does not possess these skills. The candidate will also work with animal models, but can acquire certification and receive training within our institution. In addition, broad and extensive experience within one or more of the following areas: cellular immunology, animal work (xenograft models, anti-tumor cellular immune response studies), biochemistry, flow cytometry, imaging and protein chemistry will be considered as a strong advantage.

A good command of English is required. In addition the candidate is encouraged to participate in at least one international conference per year where he/she will present his/her data.

The application must include:

- Application letter (1 page)

- CV (1 page, summarizing education, positions, pedagogical experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activity)

- Copies of educational certificates, transcript of records and letters of recommendation (max 3)

- A complete list of publications and unpublished works (submitted and in preparation), including up to 5 academic works that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee. This short list should support the candidate's proficiency in the required skills (see "qualifications")

- Names and contact details of 3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number)

Questions about the position can be sent to Dr Sébastien Wälchli at the following e-mail address: sebastw@rr-research.no or telephone +47 22 78 14 16.