



The Laboratory for Cell Death Research & Therapy, at the University of  
Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium  
Within the frame of the EOS programme **DECODE**

## “Refining Cancer Cell Death and Danger Signals for the Improvement of Immunotherapy”

Seeks a highly motivated **PhD student**

Position is available starting September/October 2018

### Research Topic Description:

We are seeking a suitable candidate within the context of the ‘**DECODE**’ Consortium, funded through the **Excellence of Science (EOS) programme of the Belgian FWO/FNRS** (for more details, see: <http://www.eosprogramme.be> and <http://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/research-projects/eos-research-project/>). Our “**DECODE Consortium**” brings together research groups from *University of Leuven (KU Leuven)*, *Ghent University (UGent)*, *University of Louvain (UCL)* and *The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI)*. DECODE’s research aims are located at the interface of the immunobiology of cell death processes and cancer immunotherapy. DECODE ambitiously aims to go significantly beyond the current state-of-the-art, by pursuing an innovative and interdisciplinary research theme, integrating methodology from various fields of cancer cell biology, immunology & immunotherapy and wishes to aggressively integrate distinct omics -based approaches to translational immunotherapy and biomarker discovery.

**The current PhD position** is available for a highly motivated candidate in the research subgroup of **Prof. Abhishek D. Garg** embedded within the Cell Death Research & Therapy unit headed by Prof. Patrizia Agostinis. The PhD student will exploit the already available expertise in **cell death immunology** as well as **cancer immunology & immunotherapy** to address emerging questions seeking to understand the positive and negative immunological impact of different cancer cell death mechanisms like **apoptosis, necrosis and necroptosis**. This mechanistic knowledge (complemented with **clinical biomarker analysis** in cancer patients) will be utilized to understand the **cancer-immune cross-talk** and improve **cancer immunotherapies** (like immune-checkpoint blockers and anticancer vaccines).

### Profile:

- You hold a Master's degree in Biotechnology/Biological Sciences/Life Sciences/Biomedical Sciences or related fields, obtained from a recognized University.
- You have demonstrated following practical skills: basic molecular and/or cellular biology

techniques, flow cytometry analyses, animal cell culture, basic research data handling and statistical analyses.

- You have solid demonstrable theoretical knowledge of: Molecular Cell Biology, Cancer Biology, Immunology and Basic anatomy.
- You should be a team player with excellent oral and written (English) communication skills.
- Practical knowledge and technical skills related to Immunology, Histology/Immunohistochemistry and, Animal handling would be a plus and candidates possessing these will be preferred.

### Key Responsibilities:

- • Performing experiments dealing with molecular & cell biology, cell death mechanisms, immunology and, *in vivo* tumor immunology & immunotherapy.
- Delivering presentations (oral or poster) in consortium/institutional seminars and national/international symposiums or conferences.
- Eager to carry out visitations (if required) to other laboratories (within Belgium or abroad) for learning new techniques.
- Eager to co-supervise the thesis projects of Master's students.

### We offer:

- • At least a 4 years contract (although we do encourage the candidate to apply for a personal PhD fellowship to be part of this programme for a longer period of time).
- Access to state-of-the-art infrastructures and active collaborations with well-known Belgian or international laboratories.
- A stimulating, international research environment in a world-class academic laboratory and the opportunity to interact with several highly collaborative, world-class investigators part of this consortium.

### How to apply?

Please send your full CV (with all the relevant academic scores and at least 2 referees with full-contact details), including a list of your published papers/major accomplishments/research stays abroad (if any) to [abhishek.garg@kuleuven.be](mailto:abhishek.garg@kuleuven.be)