

# ERN-EUROBLOODNET EXCHANGE PROGRAM



## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

For ERN-EuroBloodNet members and Affiliated Partners

## TO CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: THALASSEMIA

## PRECEPTORSHIP

Archbishop Makarios III Hospital

Coordinated by

Dr. Soteroula Christou and Prof. Marina Kleanthous

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The ERN Exchange Mobility Program is coordinated by [Ecorys Agency](#) and aims to organize short stays in ERN's Health Care Providers for disseminating expertise on Rare Diseases among Network's members. In order to improve cutting-edge knowledge on Rare Hematological Diseases (RHD), [ERN-EuroBloodNet](#) is launching a call for **ERN-EuroBloodNet Members and Affiliated Partners** for attending a preceptorship program held in one highly specialized center for **Thalassemia**

Highly specialized centers that will host the preceptorships are chosen across Europe and represent the excellence in RHDs field at international level. Indeed, centers have been chosen among ERN-EuroBloodNet HCPs members.

## 1. PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT

### Context

Diagnosis, prognosis and management of haemoglobinopathies (H-disease,  $\beta$ -thalassaemia and sickle-cell disease)

### Educational objectives

1. Acquire the theoretical and practical basis for the use of diagnostic tools and follow-up of patients with haemoglobinopathies
2. Be able to apply the genetic diagnostic and monitoring tools, to take their limitations into account for diagnosis and reporting, and to interpret the results
3. Understand and learn how to apply the management protocol of haemoglobinopathies and the program of the clinic, including blood transfusion, chelation treatment, management of complications and follow-up protocols

### Contextualised teaching (practical experience)

1. Practical experience into the laboratory practice (alongside the biochemists) and explanation of local technological choices in relation to market possibilities.
2. Practical experience at the Thalassemia Clinic.

## 2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **From** 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (5 days)
- **Host Centers**

[Archbishop Makarios III Hospital - Thalassemia Clinic](#)

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics

- **Number of participants**

4 (selected via a call for participants)

- **Coordinated by**

- [Dr. Soteroula Christou](#)
- [Prof. Marina Kleanthous, PhD](#)

- **Teachers**

- Dr. Soteroula Christou
- Dr. Irene Savvidou
- Dr. Anna Rekliti
- Christiana Makariou
- Loukas Kythreotis
- Christiana Ioannou
- Prof. Marina Kleanthous, PhD
- Marios S. Phylactides, PhD
- Carsten W. Lederer, PhD
- Thessalia Papasavva, PhD
- Petros Kountouris, PhD
- Dr Panayiota L. Papasavva, PhD

- **Programme**

### 10<sup>th</sup> October

- 6h Clinical approach
  - Follow up protocol,
  - Blood Transfusion program
  - Participation in Blood Transfusion services

### 11<sup>th</sup> October

- Thalassemia Screening Program in Cyprus, Haemoglobinopathies, Haematological and Biochemical testing, *Presentation*
- Haematological analyser, Haematological indices, *Practical approach*

- High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Capillary Electrophoresis, Variant Library, *Practical approach*
- Microscopy, Red blood cell morphology, Abnormalities in  $\beta$ -thalassaemia, H-disease, Sickle cell disease, *Practical approach*

### 12<sup>th</sup> October

- The genetics of haemoglobinopathies, Genetic testing, Prenatal, Preimplantation and Non Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis, *Lecture*
- DNA isolation from CVS and Peripheral Blood, *Practical Approach*
- **NGS testing for Thalassemias\_The DEVYSER assay, *Practical Approach***
  - DNA preparation
  - Library Generation

### 13<sup>th</sup> October

- Library Indexing
- The ITHANET Portal. ERN Patient Registries. Modifiers and genotype-phenotype correlation. Gene therapy approaches. *Lecture*
- Library pooling and purification
- Illumina Sequencing using MiSeq™
- **DATA Analysis tools**
  - Sequence Data Analysis using Amplicon Suite
  - Exome Sequencing Data Analysis using Varsome Clinical

### 14<sup>th</sup> October

- 6h Clinical approach and meeting with the Thalassemia Patients' Association
  - Chelation Treatment
  - Management of complications
  - Library pooling and purification
  - Meeting with the Thalassemia Patients' Association

### 3. PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This preceptorship will bring together a maximum of **4 participants**

- Participants must be affiliated to a [HCP member](#) or [Affiliated partner](#) of ERN-EuroBloodNet. In the selection, the priority will be given to the permanent staff of the health care provider.
- Interest in developing their medical competences in the clinical area of Thalassemia.
- In a position to follow-up the preceptorship with education projects and activities on medical education.
- Available for the whole duration of the preceptorship.
- English speaker.

### 4. SELECTION PROCEDURE

In order to participate at this call, candidate must:

1. Fulfill the application form available at <http://www.eurobloodnet.eu/education/preceptorships/>
  2. Edit a Curriculum vitae
  3. Write a cover letter
  4. Send the application form, the curriculum vitae and the cover letter to Dr. Christel Buelens - [christel.buelens@ulb.be](mailto:christel.buelens@ulb.be) - and write as object of the email: "**Thalassemia**". If you don't get the confirmation of the receipt within few days, please write again.
- It is mandatory to send the candidature by the **20<sup>th</sup> September at midnight** (CEST time)
  - A jury among ERN-EuroBloodNet members has been established in order to select participants.
  - Gender and geographical balance will be taken into account when making the selection of the group, along with the meritocracy of the CV and the motivations expressed in the cover letter.

### 5. COSTS COVERAGES

ERN-EuroBloodNet via Ecorys Agency is in charge to cover the costs for travel (up to €300 for air travel and €200 for rail travel) and accommodation of participants (€200 per working day). It includes daily allowance to cover subsistence, accommodation and travel insurance for professional that travels

For any additional information, please write to [christel.buelens@ulb.be](mailto:christel.buelens@ulb.be)



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**2021-2022**



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Answering  
tomorrow's  
challenges  
today

*If you are interested in participating to ERN-EuroBloodNet educational formation but your profile does not fully correspond to the requirements of this call for participants, please note that the ERN-EuroBloodNet will organize other preceptorships.*