



EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Initial Training Network



EDEN

Title: European Dry Eye Network

Call: HORIZON 2020-MSCA-ITN-2014

Proposal Number: 642760

Type of position: Early Stage Researcher (ESR)/ PhD position

Short description of project

EDEN is an ITN project funded by the EC providing training and career development of 10 early-stage researchers (ESRs) in Vision Sciences. EDEN is funded under EJD-ITN modality, which means that the consortium will aim at providing each ESR with PhD title recognised by two EU universities.

EDEN counts with participation of Universities of Valencia and Complutense (Spain), Wrocław (Poland), and Aston (UK) as well as private sector partner OPTEGRA (Germany) which is a group of Hospitals.

The project places emphasis in experience-based training through cross-disciplinary research projects that will use state-of-the-art technology to analyse the lacrimal functional unit, and assess the structural and physiological changes occurring in the patients with Dry Eye Disease (DED).

The objectives of the project include discovery of newer metrics that will be crucial in obtaining a better diagnosis and monitoring of the DED (including the differential discrimination of patients with DED, and different etiologies of the disease). The project will also provide the opportunity to study the effect of various DED treatments, and develop new treatments specific to the various etiologies of DED. EDEN it will also allow to study the risk factors that predispose to develop the disease.

PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Development of an in-vitro animal model to evaluate novel pharmaceutical approached to DED management.

Objective: existing animal models of dry eye mirror precisely the complexity and chronicity of this frequent and debilitating condition. This project will involve the development and testing of a complete anterior model for dry eye using porcine eyes, which are known to be similar in size and structure to the human eye, including perfusion with a flowing, pressurised, temperature-regulated nutrient fluid.

PI: Skills Requirements:

- The English Language requirements are a minimum overall score of 101 (with minimum marks in each sections of: R: 23, W: 26, L: 23 and S: 22) in TOEFL (Internet-Based) OR IELTS with minimum marks of 6.0 in each section and an minimum overall band of 6.5 OR Pearson with minimum marks of 63 in each section and an minimum overall score of 72.
- Computer aided design and 3D fabrication
- Cell proliferation and live / dead tissue staining

PI: Education requirements:

· Applicants should have a good Bachelor (Hons.) degree (either first class or upper second class) or hold an MSc in a relevant discipline.

Host Institute: Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Department: Ophthalmic Research Group

Website: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/health/org/org-anterior-eye-research/>

Contact e-mail: j.s.w.wolffsohn@aston.ac.uk

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in (United Kingdom) within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

Starting date: 01.09.2015 (or later)

Duration: 36 months

Salary: According to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme rules

How to apply:

Please send the following documents via e-mail:

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PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Environmental Risk Factors for Dry Eye Disease (DED)

Objective: While individual reports have been published of environmental factors such as temperature, humidity and air pollution causing dry eye symptoms, no large-scale systematic studies of their effects in humans have been conducted. These factors can be simulated in a controlled environmental chamber. Since the prevalence of dry eyes is reportedly far more among contact lens wearers, a contact lens wearing population will be studied with and without their lenses in place. In addition, a large-scale study will be conducted to quantify DED prevalence across Europe and its correlates with demographic, anatomical and lifestyle factors.

PI: Skills Requirements:

· The English Language requirements are a minimum overall score of 101 (with minimum marks in each sections of: R: 23, W: 26, L: 23 and S: 22) in TOEFL (Internet-Based) OR IELTS with minimum marks of 6.0 in each section and an minimum overall band of 6.5 OR Pearson with minimum marks of 63 in each section and an minimum overall score of 72.

PI: Education requirements:

· Applicants should have a good Bachelor (Hons.) Optometry degree (either first class or upper second class) or hold an MSc in a relevant discipline.

Host Institute: Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Department: Ophthalmic Research Group

Website: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/health/org/org-anterior-eye-research/>

Contact e-mail: j.s.w.wolffsohn@aston.ac.uk

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PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Evaluation of safety and efficacy of a Thermal Pulsation System versus other treatments of meibomian gland dysfunction

Objective: The purpose of this study is to determine the safety and efficacy of the new Lipiflow thermal pulsation system versus traditional MGD treatments. Secondary aims of the study include determination of post-operative refractive predictability, visual and patient-reported outcomes in an MGD population undergoing laser vision correction and the impact of different treatments on these key metrics.

PI: Skills Requirements: A very good command of English is necessary along with expertise in clinical data analysis.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry or Vision Sciences or Biostatistics

Host Institute: Optegra

Department: Eye Sciences

Website: www.optegra.com

Contact e-mail: clare.odonnell@optegra.co.uk

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in (Germany) within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Impact of dry eye disease on cataract and refractive surgery

Objective: To determine the variability of pre-surgical calculations in normal and dry eye populations presenting for cataract and refractive surgery and to determine the impact of dry eye on post-operative clinical outcomes and the efficacy novel diagnostic tools and treatments for dry eye-related conditions.

PI: Skills Requirements: A very good command of English is necessary along with expertise in clinical data analysis.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry or Vision Sciences or Biostatistics

Host Institute: Optegra

Department: Eye Sciences

Website: www.optegra.com

Contact e-mail: clare.odonnell@optegra.co.uk

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in (Germany) within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Biomarkers trends for early diagnosis of Dry Eye Disease (DED)

Objective: The aim of this project is to analyse the propensity to develop DED in the near future and anticipate its evolution. Using mathematical models and descriptors, it will explore the intra-day and visit-to-visit trends of certain specific biomarkers in a healthy population and in a population with incipient symptomatology.

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry or Vision Sciences

Host Institute: University of Valencia

Department: Optics and Optometry and Vision Science

Website: <http://www.giovalencia.es>

Contact e-mail: david.madrid@uv.es

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in Spain within the last three years

(employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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PI: Short description of the PhD position:

Project Title: Evaluation of changes in tear film metrics and ocular signs induced by different types of refractive correction

Objective: The aim of this project is to evaluate changes in tear film metrics and ocular signs induced by different types of refractive correction focusing on the older population, since the prevalence of DED increases with age and due to presbyopia most people over 45 need refractive correction for distance, intermediate or near vision, or all three.

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry or Vision Sciences

Host Institute: University of Valencia

Department: Optics and Optometry and Vision Science

Website: <http://www.giovalencia.es>

Contact e-mail: david.madrid@uv.es

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not

have worked for more than 12 months in Spain within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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PI: Short description of the PhD position: The PhD candidate will join the Biomedical Signal Processing Group (BSPG) at Wroclaw University of Technology. BSPG forms an international team of researchers focussed on many aspects of the human eye and human brain such as physiology and health but its particular attention is on signal and data processing for supporting diagnosis and development of diagnostic instrumentation. The position is full time.

Project Title: Non-invasive measurement of tear film surface quality

Objective: It is well established that addition of any substance to the tears such as the fluorescein changes their properties and produces biased estimates of build-up and break-up times. It is therefore essential that in a routine clinical practice, non-invasive methods of assessing tear film should be used. Current tools that can be utilised for performing this task include high speed videokeratoscopy, dynamic wavefront sensing, lateral shearing interferometry and dynamic meniscometry. Nevertheless, current methods have drawbacks that limit their practical widespread application. The goals of the project include developing a new technology that would overcome the problems of its predecessors.

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary; computer programming skills;

PI: Education requirements: Master in Physics/Optics, Master in Electrical/Electronic Engineering; master in Computer Sciences, Master in Biomedical Engineering or an equivalent Master degree

Host Institute: Wroclaw University of Technology
Department: Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology
Website: pwr.edu.pl (dri.pwr.edu.pl)
Contact e-mail: robert.iskander@pwr.edu.pl

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have resided, worked or studied for more than 12 months in Poland within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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Project Title: Predicting contact lens related dry eye

Objective: Currently refraction, subjective comfort, and anterior eye health are the three major factors assessed during contact lens fit. However, measurement of tear film surface quality is not routinely performed in the clinical contact lens practice. Latest TFOS (Tear Film and Ocular Surface) report (IOVS, 2013) emphasises the importance of contact lens interactions with tear film. Many studies conclude that all soft contact lens materials adversely affect tear film physiology. Recently it has been shown that differences in in-vivo measured tear film surface quality exist between lens types. The aim of the study is to develop, based on the non-invasively measured pre-corneal and pre-lens tear film surface

quality, forecasting methods to predict future contact lens related dry eye and to optimise contact lens fitting to include a lens material that has highest tear film biocompatibility.

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary;

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry; Master in Physics/Optics, Master in Biomedical Engineering or an equivalent Master degree

Host Institute: Wroclaw University of Technology
Department: Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology
Website: pwr.edu.pl (dri.pwr.edu.pl)
Contact e-mail: robert.iskander@pwr.edu.pl

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have resided, worked or studied for more than 12 months in Poland within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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PI: Short description of the PhD position: The objectives of EDEN are:

1. to advance in the understanding of DED and provide diagnostic and therapeutic innovations for this most frequent of all ophthalmic diseases
2. to train 10 early-stage researchers (ESRs) in state-of-the-art concepts and research techniques essential to the study of the human eye, while providing them with strong career-management skills and sound professional connections
3. To boost the impact, the presence, and the international visibility of European research, structuring research training capacities in vision science around long-term synergistic collaboration among four academic institutions and four internationally reputed companies engaging in complementary fields of vision science.

Project Title: Infrared Imaging of Meibomian Gland Structure(MGD)

Objective: The aim of this project is to update MGD classification on the basis of meibomian gland structure as revealed by infrared meibography

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Optometry and Vision Science

Host Institute: UCM (Complutense University of Madrid)

Department Optics II (Optometry and Vision)
Website: <https://www.ucm.es/clinopto-corneairregular>
Contact e-mail: alorente@ucm.es

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

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Project Title: Bio-adhesive polymers containing liposomes for DED treatment

Objective: The aim of this project is to develop a new artificial tear with hydrophilic and lipid components as well as the antioxidants and osmoprotectants involved in the proliferation and differentiation of the corneal epithelium

PI: Skills Requirements: very good command of English is necessary.

PI: Education requirements: Master in Pharmacy

Host Institute: UCM (Complutense University of Madrid)

Department: Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technologies
Website: <http://www.ucm.es/galenica>
Contact e-mail: alorente@ucm.es

Eligibility: To this position applies a mobility rule. The respective candidate must not have worked for more than 12 months in within the last three years (employment date being the reference date). Furthermore, the candidate needs to be in his/her first four years of his/her research career. The four years are counted from the date a degree was obtained which formally entitles to embark on a doctorate either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country of employment.

Starting date: 01.09.2015 (or later)

Duration: 36 months

Salary: According to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme rules

How to apply:

Please send the following documents via e-mail:

- CV (detailing the exact dates of the hold positions)
- Copies of University Diploma or Master certificates
- Two letters of recommendations

Deadline for application: 30th of May 2015