

Vacancy: PhD Candidate *Extracellular vesicle-inspired mRNA delivery***Job description**

Job title	PhD student
Division	Laboratory and Pharmacy
Department	Clinical Chemistry and Haematology
Location	UMC Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 100
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term for up to 4 years (PhD student)
Reporting to	Prof Dr Raymond Schiffelers Dr Pieter Vader
Additional information	Funded by Horizon 2020

Project title:

Expanding Platforms for Efficacious mRNA Therapeutics (EXPERT)

Project Background:

Together with research partners from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Norway, Ireland, Hungary, Canada, Israël, France and Sweden, EXPERT focuses on creating an off-the-shelf mRNA nanomedicine platform to produce therapeutic proteins *in vivo*. Our aim is to design lipid nanoparticle- and extracellular vesicle-based systems to achieve delivery of immunostimulatory mRNAs to tumors and cardioprotective mRNAs to the myocardium. Extracellular vesicles have shown remarkable RNA delivery efficacy, but the underlying mechanisms are at present ill understood. The PhD will be responsible for studying uptake, trafficking and functional RNA delivery of extracellular vesicles, and for feeding this information into the design of more efficient synthetic nanocarriers.

Profile

- (Nearly) completed a master of science program (MSc) or PhD program in a relevant area of research such as pharmacology, cell biology, drug innovation, or biomedical sciences.
- Experience with tissue culture and general molecular biology techniques is desired.
- Must be able to work both independently and as part of a team, and to communicate effectively with others, particularly with regard to the presentation of scientific data.

How to apply

E-mail your CV and supporting statement to Dr Pieter Vader (pvader@umcutrecht.nl) and Prof Raymond Schiffelers (r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl) **before July 22nd**. Interviews will be held on Friday July 26th. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them at this stage. More information: r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl