

**Vacancy: PhD Candidate *Nanocarriers for mRNA delivery*****Job description**

<b>Job title</b>	<b>PhD student</b>
<b>Division</b>	Laboratory and Pharmacy
<b>Department</b>	Clinical Chemistry and Haematology
<b>Location</b>	UMC Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 100
<b>Hours</b>	Full time
<b>Contract type</b>	Fixed-term for up to 4 years
<b>Reporting to</b>	Prof Dr Raymond Schiffelers Dr Pieter Vader
<b>Additional information</b>	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 modular lipid nanoparticles, manufactured via a quality-by-design protocol, to achieve delivery of immunostimulatory mRNAs to tumors. As proof-of-concept we will perform a first-in-man clinical study for an intratumorally administered immunostimulatory mRNA-nanomedicine in cancer patients. The PhD candidate will be responsible for the manufacturing, characterization and evaluation of nanoparticles with specifications that meet the requirements for GMP scaling up and clinical translation.

**Profile**

- (Nearly) completed a master of science program (MSc) 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](mailto:pvader@umcutrecht.nl)) and Prof Raymond Schiffelers ([r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl)) **before July 22nd**. Interviews will be held on Friday July 26<sup>th</sup>. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them at this stage. More information: [r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:r.schiffelers@umcutrecht.nl)