



Meet BIOART's

PhD Students &
Postdoc Researchers



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What is BIOART?

BIOART is an Initial Training Network funded by the European Union. It brings together academic and private partners collaborating to provide young researchers with the research and entrepreneurial skills necessary to make a significant impact in the **treatment of kidney and liver diseases**, and enhance their career prospects in both the public and private sectors.

Research Objectives

- Develop **prototype artificial kidney devices** enabling prolonged/continuous removal of uremic toxins
- Develop **prototype bioartificial kidney devices** using human renal epithelial cells to remove uremic toxins
- Develop **prototype bioreactor devices** to ensure the viability and function of hepatocyte cells

Training Objectives

BIOART **trains a new generation of scientists** capable of addressing highly multi-disciplinary projects combining material science and engineering with biology and medicine.

BIOART recruits **11 PhD students** (Early-stage researchers) and **5 postdocs** (Experienced researchers) to achieve its scientific objectives. **3 postdocs are still to be recruited.**

BIOART in brief

Starting date:

1st December 2012

End date:

30th November 2016

Number of partners: 11

Coordinator:

Prof. Dr. Dimitrios STAMATIALIS
University of Twente, MIRA Institute
The Netherlands

Programme:

FP7-PEOPLE-2012-ITN

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University of Twente

Biomaterials Science and Technology (BST)
The Netherlands

Paul Sabatier University

Laboratoire de Génie Chimique (LGC)
France

Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre (RUNMC)

Nijmegen Centre for Molecular Life Sciences
The Netherlands

University of Technology of Compiègne (UTC)

Laboratory of Biomechanics & Bioengineering
France

National Research Council of Italy (ITM-CNR)

Institute on Membrane Technology
Italy

Universität Leipzig (ULEI)

Cell Technologies and Applied Stem Cell Biology
Germany

Università della Calabria (UNICAL)

Department of Environmental and Chemical Engineering
Italy

EXcorLab GmbH

Germany

GVS S.P.A.

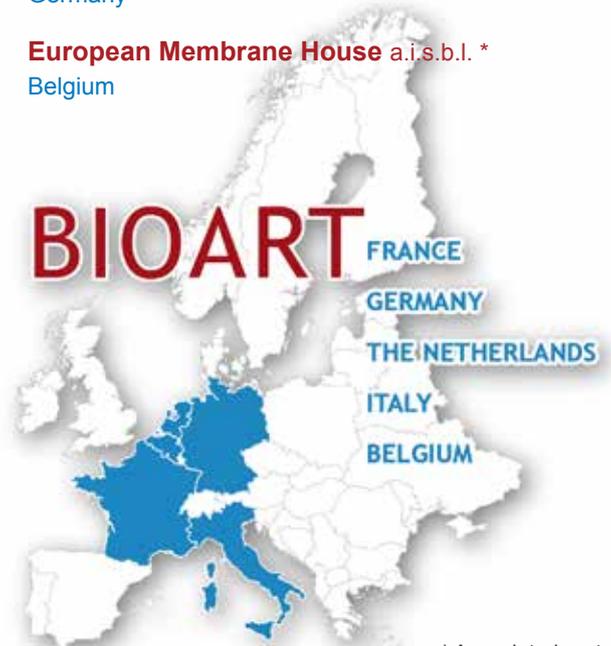
Italy

Bionethos Innovation GmbH

Germany

European Membrane House a.i.s.b.l. *

Belgium



* Associated partner

Who are the BIOARTists? (1/2)



Denys PAVLENKO - BST - ESR1
The Netherlands

I come from Ukraine where I got a Master's degree from a top-ranked Ukrainian university, Kyiv-Mohyla academy. The crucial point in choosing my path in science was my decision to get a broad international education. The perfect fit for my scientific interests was an Erasmus Mundus Master in Membrane Engineering (EM3E). EM3E was a unique chance of working hand in hand with experts in the field of membrane technology from France, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. Moreover, living in different countries was a great learning and adapting experience in itself. The skills that I acquired while living, working and studying in an international environment are of great help for me right now in BIOART.



Dmytro SNISARENKO - LGC - ESR2
France

My hometown is Cherkasy, a city of 300,000 in central Ukraine. The main industrial activity of the region deals with chemical production, so my future was quite predetermined. I got my Bachelor's degree in Chemistry with a focus on the chemistry of polymers. I then completed a two-year Erasmus Mundus Master in Membrane Engineering. My time was divided between Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse, the Institute of Chemical Engineering in Prague and the University of Nova in Lisbon. For my final semester, I worked in the R&D department of GVS Filter Technology, an international company with headquarters in Bologna, Italy. My thesis was about the development of membranes for medical filters.



Natalia CHEVTCHIK - BST - ESR3
The Netherlands

I come from the French city Lyon. I was born in Belarus (USSR) and moved to France when I was six. I studied at INSA Lyon, where I obtained my diploma of Engineering in Materials Science. During my last year, I undertook extra courses in polymers and biomaterials and also graduated with a Master of Research in innovative polymeric materials. I (...) was offered a position as Engineering Project Leader at Covidien. Since I wanted to work on applied research for Medical Devices, it was a great opportunity for me, and I decided to take the job and not do a PhD. I worked at Covidien for three fulfilling years. And still the thought of the PhD that I did not undertake was visiting me. The spirit of innovation (...) pushed me to look for a PhD thesis (...).



Michele FEDECOSTANTE - RUNMC
ESR4 - *The Netherlands*

I am from Italy, specifically from a little town in the province of Ancona. That town has always been too small for me so I decided to go to the Bologna University and start with the science world. Specifically I studied Biotechnology as a Bachelor's degree and Medical Biotechnology as a Master's degree. Step by step I reached the very end of my studies and I was already feeling the need to go abroad and expand my knowledge, and here is when the BIOART project came in, and I was ready for it!



Milos MIHAJLOVIC - RUNMC - ESR5
The Netherlands

I am from Serbia and after graduating from high school there I decided to pursue my studies in Italy at the University of Trieste. Since I have always been interested in natural sciences, especially biology and chemistry, my choice fell on Biotechnology. During my Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology and Master's degree in Medical Biotechnology, I developed a great passion for scientific research. Contributing to the improvement of health care and disease treatment has led me toward a PhD as the next step in my scientific career. The Bioart project seemed a perfect opportunity for me!



Shervin KHAKPOUR - ITM-CNR - ESR6
Italy

I was born in Tehran, Iran's largest city and the capital, where I spent the first 23 years of my life. Upon completion of my undergrad studies in Chemical Engineering at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, I was highly interested to gain more international experience, both scientifically and culturally, and Europe was my first preference. I got my master's degree in Chemical Engineering from TU Delft, in the Netherlands, where I carried out my thesis and internship on targeted drug delivery. My keen enthusiasm for research, plus my ever-increasing interest in Biomedical Engineering, properly led me to the right place where I gladly am now: a PhD candidate within BIOART network!



Who are the BIOARTists? (2/2)



Haysam AHMED - ITM-CNR - ESR7
Italy

I was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt. I studied Pharmaceutical Sciences in the University of Alexandria, where I earned my Bachelor's degree. Afterwards, I worked for a while as a community pharmacist then went for a couple of internships in Pharmaceutical companies; however, I was interested in more cutting-edge therapeutics. That's when I pursued master's studies in pharmaceutical biotechnology in Germany. During my studies, I grew fonder of the field and decided to pursue a PhD in a related topic. That's when I found the Bioart project. I was captivated by the aim of the research and decided to go for it.



Vittoria PANDOLFI - UTC - ESR8
France

I come from Italy, from a small town in the Calabria region. When I was 19, I decided to move to the north of the country to embark on studies in the field of biomedical engineering. I pursued a Master's degree in Tissue Engineering which got me very enthusiastic about research. Thanks to a first scientific experience in the United States, I clearly understood I wanted to enrich my knowledge by doing a PhD back to Europe. And here I am... carrying out my PhD as a "BIOARTist" at the University of Technology of Compiègne.



Ilona KRYPEL - ULEI - ESR9
Germany

I'm originally from a small renaissance style city in Poland close to the Ukrainian border. However recently I feel more like a resident of the world (...). During the last year I've been living in the Czech Republic and Germany. I'm taking every opportunity to extend my knowledge as I don't want to miss out on new opportunities to enrich my life. Therefore when I found a PhD position with this international project in Leipzig, in a field which is particularly appealing to me, I was happy to become involved. Beforehand I was studying Biotechnology in Poland but it was always in my mind that I wanted to study abroad to broaden my horizons and to get an insight into the wider scientific community.



Danial NAGHIB - UNICAL - ESR11
Italy

I am from Iran and my hometown is Tehran, which is Iran's biggest city and capital. I studied Chemical Engineering as a Bachelor's degree in University of Tehran. I got my Master's degree in Chemical Engineering in Malaysia. I worked on a biopolymer for wastewater treatment and on a DNA sensor at the University of Technology of Malaysia. After earning my Master's degree, I intended to continue my education and I realized that because of the lack of appropriate academic facilities and sufficient scientific opportunities in Asia, I really needed to continue my higher education in a European country. That's how I applied for a BIOART's PhD.



Katarzyna MAKSYMOW - EXcorLab
ER1 - *Germany*

I come from Poland. I graduated in Materials Science from Jagiellonian University in Cracow. It is a very interesting field of study. I have chosen a specialization in nanotechnology and photonics. After graduation I decided to stay in Cracow and do a PhD about human heart. Well, not exactly... I did research on cardiovascular prosthesis that may be used in artificial hearts. In science, what I like most is when I am not far from real life, when I can see that my work can be a small step towards a better tomorrow.



Marcos FALLANZA - GVS - ER2
Italy

I was born in Torrelavega, a city located in the region of Cantabria in the north of Spain. I took a degree in Chemical Engineering and after that I did a PhD in Chemical and Process Engineering in the "Advanced Separation Processes" research group of the University of Cantabria. The PhD was in collaboration with the Universidad Autònoma in Madrid and Imperial College London. During my PhD I decided that I wanted to develop my career in R&D and finally just after finishing my PhD I had the opportunity to embark in a post-doc within the BIOART project at GVS SPA in Bologna. ”

What is your PhD/postdoc project about? (1/2)



Denys PAVLENKO - BST - ESR1

The Netherlands

The topic of my PhD is “Towards the new generation of dialysis: mixed matrix membranes”. Generally speaking I am focused on blood purification of the patients who suffer from renal disease. In case of renal failure, organ replacement therapy still remains the treatment of choice for patients, but due to a lack of donor kidneys most patients must undergo dialysis treatment three times per week for a period of four years on average. Although dialysis treatment helps to remove uremic toxins and excess body fluids, low quality of life and high mortality rate remain the problem.

In my project I will investigate different approaches on how to achieve continuous, prolonged and complete removal of uremic toxins from blood. The Mixed Matrix Membranes (MMM) concept will be used in order to achieve a highly beneficial combination of filtration and adsorption in one step.

Dmytro SNISARENKO - LGC - ESR2

France

Let's start with the title of my work. It is “Middle molecules clearance through artificial kidneys”. In fact, my PhD project deals with the filtration of small proteins (i.e. b-2-microglobuline) through a membrane (artificial kidney). The aim of the work is to develop an optimal strategy to control the transfer of medium-size molecules during blood purification procedure.

Natalia CHEVTCHIK - BST - ESR3

The Netherlands

The BIOART project gathers three different work orientations: bioartificial liver, artificial kidney and bioartificial kidney. I am interested in the bioartificial kidney, which means an artificial hemofiltration device including a biological part. My (ambitious) aim is to develop a working prototype bioartificial kidney device utilizing human renal epithelial cells for the removal of uremic toxins. Of course I am not alone but working closely, among other partners, with two other PhDs from the same work package, a biologist and an immunologist.

Michele FEDECOSTANTE - RUNMC
ESR4 - The Netherlands

My PhD is about the development of a bioartificial kidney using human proximal tubule epithelial cell lines. In detail, the project deals with cells seeding inside hollow fibre membranes, normally used in hemodialysis, in order to develop a device which can lead to uremic toxins and excess body fluids removal from end stage renal diseases patients, who cannot do that anymore.

Milos MIHAJLOVIC - RUNMC - ESR5
The Netherlands

My PhD project concerns the development of a bioartificial kidney device, based on the use of immortalized human renal epithelial cells. Such a device can be used to improve the treatment of patients affected by end-stage renal disease, by removing uremic toxins more efficiently. I will focus on evaluating safety aspects of the bioartificial kidney, especially regarding the immune response, that is the allogeneic response to the cells used in the device, as well as the eventual transmission of oncogenes.

Sherwin KHAKPOUR - ITM-CNR - ESR6
Italy

My project is titled “Bioartificial liver using hepatocytes and endothelial cells”, within BIOART’s work package 3 which addresses bioartificial liver.

The main objective of my project is the realization and optimization of a bioreactor used for cell culture, based on mass transfer and fluid dynamics studies. To further clarify about this project, I should mention that the development of an innovative bioreactor which ensures viability and functionality of cells – hepatocytes in our case – is very challenging, sophisticated and expensive, both financially and timely.

Mathematical modelling of the system provides a powerful tool to better understand the mechanisms that control performance and to identify the decisive parameters and working conditions. ”

What is your PhD/postdoc project about? (2/2)



Haysam AHMED - ITM-CNR - ESR7

Italy

The title of my PhD project is “Membrane bioartificial liver device using progenitor cells or induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS)”.

The general theme of the project is to develop an extracorporeal bioartificial liver to serve as a temporary support for liver failure patients until they can get a liver transplantation. I am concerned with the biological aspect of the project. My main goals are to find the best microenvironment for hepatocytes to survive and function as long as possible, as close as possible to the in-vivo situation, and to develop a protocol for the differentiation of stem cells into functional hepatocyte-like cells.

Vittoria PANDOLFI - UTC - ESR8

France

My PhD falls into the third BIOART work orientation which focuses on the development of a bioartificial liver for liver failure patients. The aim of my project is to realize co-cultures between different hepatic cell types in order to improve and maintain the hepatocytes-specific functions following their encapsulation and application in the fluidized bed bioartificial liver device which is developed in my lab.

Iona KRISTEL - ULEI - ESR9

Germany

My PhD concerns induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) which are the most promising weapons in the regenerative medicine field. The main goal is to create highly efficient hepatic-like cells, derived from a footprint-free iPSC, that are tailor-made to each diseased individual, which could hopefully then be therapeutically applied in a clinical setting. Therefore at the moment I am focusing my efforts on the establishment of fully defined conditions for non-viral iPSC, that mimic the natural niche for human pluripotent stem cells in vitro. I am also working on the optimization of hepatic differentiation protocols in order to execute my final goal, which is the long term functional maintenance of iPSC-derived hepatocytes in a bioreactor module.

Danial NAGHIB - UNICAL - ESR11

Italy

My focus is on applying advanced modelling and control techniques used in the chemical industry to highly innovative membrane bioreactor systems used as bioartificial liver. The ambitious objective is to devise a method that ensures higher bioreactor performances by prolonging cell viability and functionality. This requires improving the culturing environment and supplying tightly controlled feed/effluent conditions.

A close collaboration with the Institute on Membrane Technology in Italy – one of BIOART's project partner- is planned. I'm going to spend a month there in a few weeks. I will work on the modeling of a simple membrane bioreactor. I'm very much excited about it!

Katarzyna MAKSYMOW - EXcorLab

ER1 - Germany

My objective in the BIOART project is to develop biocompatibility protocols. In this statement is hidden an experiment that leads to the relevant evaluation of innovative material interaction with blood. In my work I simulate real conditions of blood flow through membranes. I analyze what is changing in blood during the experiment. All that we, scientists, can do is to invent more effective and less harmful materials. My task is to find a method to distinguish which material is more haemocompatible. I am working with standard materials and also new ones. I measure blood components and compare the results between different types of membranes. This is what allows me to develop the biocompatibility protocols.

Marcos FALLANZA - GVS - ER2

Italy

Currently I am working to contribute in the research and development of an artificial kidney device. The project involves research and development of novel PVDF membranes to be used in the development of a filter for the removal of heparin – a blood thinner- during dialysis treatment. The studies comprise technology development, membrane production, as well as membrane surface modification devoted to produce an effective heparin filter device. ”

What is the best thing about undertaking a PhD/postdoc? How challenging is it?

(1/2)



Denys PAVLENKO - BST - ESR1

The Netherlands

Best thing? Well... It has a lot of benefits, but one is especially noticeable for me. A PhD position in a Marie-Curie Action gives you a chance to work with leading experts in the field of artificial organs, so every researcher involved in the project can benefit from unique expertise and take the advantage of the great networking potential of the consortium.

As for the challenges: it is all about time and timing. We have only three years for our PhD, so you should be a perfect “time-manager” if you want to reach all the goals you have.

Dmytro SNISARENKO - LGC - ESR2

France

A PhD has several great things I was not even thinking about before. First of all, it's almost independent work. (...) During your PhD, there is only one obligatory meeting with your supervisor every two weeks, and for the remaining time you can schedule and plan your research in a very flexible way. Secondly, in BIOART, we have a close collaboration with industrial companies and scientific institutions. Each has a specific expertise in a particular segment of artificial kidney research and may contribute significantly to my work. Finally, the BIOART meetings and workshops are extremely useful since all lectures are given by highly experienced researchers, who provide the most relevant and up-to-date information about their field of activity. (...) As for challenges, I've realized that in scientific research, the more questions you are answering, the more new ones are generated and these daily challenges keep me constantly motivated.

Natalia CHEVTCHIK - BST - ESR3

The Netherlands

I am in a new cultural, scientific and technical environment. Firstly, the topic of bioartificial organs and filtrating devices appears as very different from muscular hernia repair. And I should (have to) learn again! It is very important and challenging for me to learn by doing and developing the new approaches and devices. Working in a company is very fulfilling and you can learn on the go; whereas now I have dedicated courses, on membranes for example, and also trainings included in the BIOART project. Of course, learning new technical orientations is always a great challenge. Secondly, I am in a new cultural environment, in the Netherlands. (...). I am undertaking Dutch Language courses! Because of my mixed origins and history, I dare say that I am “linguistically gifted”, fluent in French, Russian and English; and now, I progress quite quickly in Dutch, which is my fifth language. (...)

Michele FEDECOSTANTE - RUNMC
ESR4 - The Netherlands

Definitely, the freedom to build your professional personality by taking different courses; participating to congresses; exchanging informations with colleagues and being independent. All those things will build up a great scientific researcher. The real challenge is to follow your ideas, of course you have to have some. It's not easy, but whoever said life was easy?!

Milos MIHAJLOVIC - RUNMC - ESR5
The Netherlands

One of the biggest challenges about undertaking a PhD is definitely learning how to deal with all that science is – from generating new ideas, designing and performing experiments, to analyzing, explaining and presenting the results. And doing that in collaboration with other people, confronting ideas and opinions, is also something that can help you grow professionally and build up your scientific skills. Sometimes it can be a little bit tough and overwhelming, but in the end it is very fulfilling and rewarding. And it's always nice to be surrounded by professional, creative, positive and enthusiastic researchers.

Shervin KHAKPOUR - ITM-CNR - ESR6
Italy

I'd say doctoral studies is a unique opportunity to independently build a strong professional attitude and to develop a keen mind to identify the underlying phenomena and have a systematic approach to carry out one's research.. All these can be achieved through hard work, careful planning, and close collaboration with other scientists in the field. Teamwork spirit and networking are other crucial parts of the job.

Nothing worth having is just granted effortlessly. So, every single part of it is a challenge per se. But for me personally, time management and focusing on the main topics under study are additional challenges. I mean, it's very easy to get lost in multidisciplinary research; after all there is no end-point in science! ”

What is the best thing about undertaking a PhD/postdoc? How challenging is it?

(2/2)



Haysam AHMED - ITM-CNR - ESR7
Italy

The best thing about it is the freedom to plan and execute my experiments according to the ideas I get when reading literature. I gain a lot of experience via learning a lot of new techniques that would help me advance in my career.

The challenging part about taking a PhD I would say is trying to find a compromise between the experiments you want to carry out and the time you have. Working with primary human liver cells poses many problems due to limited supply and high price of these cells, unlike animal cells or even other types of human cells (such as skin cells for instance). There's also the long time needed to carry out an experiment. I need to think about which experiments are most important and try to fit as many experiments as possible into one to get as many data as possible in the time available.

Vittoria PANDOLFI - UTC - ESR8
France

Undertaking a PhD requires lots of energy. Having a plan B at every step of the PhD is crucial and mandatory, since more often than not, things don't turn out the way we'd like them to... However, it is an extraordinary life-pathway along which positive and negative findings add something to my personality.

My work is exactly how I expected it to be at the beginning; and I'm not talking about the results but about the challenges that it daily offers me.

Ilona KRSTEL - ULEI - ESR9
Germany

It's fantastic (...). It's an invaluable experience which either lets you become a regular scientist or an extraordinary one; everything depends on your self-motivation! It's also very challenging (...). Everyday you're flooded with new information that you have to carefully filter. You have to work hard (...) but finally you will get something that no one is going to take away from you. I mean your personal development. Every success and every failure will teach you a lot. For me a diploma is not really important, the most important thing is what I will gain on the way- the journey toward your goal. As my favourite poem says:

«Always keep Ithaca in your mind.
To arrive there is your final destination.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better for it to last many years,
and when old to rest in the island,
rich with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaca to offer you wealth.»

This poem by Constantine P. Cavafy has accompanied me for my whole life, but here it seems to fit best.

Danial NAGHIB - UNICAL - ESR11

Italy

I like doing a PhD because I have time to think, read, write and create something new. I think doing a PhD is great to improve my abilities to understand and solve problems, increase my confidence, become a better communicator and gain skills that may lead to a better job. It is very challenging to work to develop the new state-of-the-art research. Training is an everyday activity and is a balance between what you find in the literature and what you do in the lab. In addition, adaptation to a new culture, a new lifestyle and a new language makes me grow as a person.

Katarzyna MAKSYMOW - EXcorLab

ER1 - Germany

Undertaking a postdoc is a very good way to learn something new and get fresh inspiration after finishing a PhD. When you choose your way as a scientist you know that you will learn something new every day. You need to be creative and open-minded. Nowadays, science is so wide that it is impossible to be an expert in everything. However, from every place that you have seen you may extract the best practices. Anything that makes you be a better researcher is worth doing. A postdoc is one of these things and I feel very lucky that I had this opportunity. Not just because I learn a lot and enlarge my view on my field but also because I have met wonderful people, who show me a huge passion for their everyday job.

Marcos FALLANZA - GVS - ER2

Italy

Definitely one of the best things about doing a postdoc is that it is a unique opportunity to keep on continuously learning while having the chance to work with leading experts in their areas. In addition, you have the opportunity to meet new people with a different approach to work, while working in a multidisciplinary area. ”

What is appealing to you in being a researcher? (1/2)



Michele FEDECOSTANTE - RUNMC
ESR4 - *The Netherlands*

When I say “I am a researcher”, people usually ask me “What are you searching for then?!”. It’s funny to see how I can depict myself as a researcher but how complicated it is to explain in only one sentence. It is a multi-faceted job, one day you can spend the whole day running through the lab and the day after you might be spending it writing and reading. That’s what I like about this job, I never get bored and it is highly challenging.

Milos MIHAJLOVIC - RUNMC - ESR5
The Netherlands

For me, it’s definitely being able to do what you really enjoy, while producing results that might have a significant impact on medicine and human health. Just knowing that you can offer even a small contribution in all that is more than enough to make you feel fulfilled about being a researcher.

Shervin KHAKPOUR - ITM-CNR- ESR6
Italy

Having an inquisitive mind always looking for answers and solutions for the daily challenges may just be the most acclaimed aspect of a researcher. Of course one needs a great deal of perseverance and training to get there, something that I’m currently working on . . . I should also add that I wouldn’t call myself a researcher yet. I think it’s a title that can only be attained after a couple of years of actual experience. But let’s say as a “junior researcher”, in the beginning of the path in this particular field, I’d like to think that what I do as my career can have a positive contribution to the human life by actually solving a real-life problem, no matter how insignificant it may be. That’s a huge satisfaction one can get from a job.

Personally I’m an anti-consumerist Chemical Engineer unhappy about worldwide overuse of plastics, which is not the best quality to be in the chemical industry!





“I never get bored and it is highly challenging.”

What is appealing to you in being a researcher? (2/2)

“ **Haysam AHMED** - ITM-CNR - ESR7
Italy

Being a researcher, for me, is all about finding solutions to problems; and the harder the problem and the more people it affects, the more appealing research becomes to me. That's why I find this research project highly interesting because the problem it tackles affects many people and solving it, even partially, would mean a lot for many patients. Also, seeing how different scientists think and approach problems certainly broadens my horizons.

Vittoria PANDOLFI - UTC - ESR8
France

What I'm about to say might sound weird... Feeling my brain is always on... That's what is appealing to me in working as a researcher. Beyond this, being a researcher gives me the opportunity to contribute to the evolution and improvement of common health problems, getting people's attention on what I am daily working on.

Iona KRYSTEL - ULEI - ESR9
Germany

[It's] the vision of helping the world and the thought that I can make my small contribution to the improvement of the lives of future generations. I went into research because I wanted the opportunity to use my skills to create and discover new things and to improve people's lives with cutting edge research like the treatment of liver diseases. The excitement of going into currently unexplored fields is particularly motivating.

“Being a researcher is like being a traveller.”

“Feeling my brain is always on... That's what is appealing to me in working as a researcher.”

Danial NAGHIB - UNICAL - ESR11

Italy

I like solving problems! I'd like to be an effective researcher whose new ideas bring brilliant solutions to different problems.

Katarzyna MAKSYMOW - EXcorLab

ER1 - Germany

Being a researcher is like being a traveller. You can go wherever you want, and be in a place that nobody has seen before.

Marcos FALLANZA - GVS - ER2

Italy

For me the best thing in being a researcher is that it is very challenging. Each day has something new to offer: new problems to solve, new issues to think about, new trials to do and new problems to overcome. I find it so exciting and self motivating! From my point of view, R&D starts with the need of solving a problem. In the beginning the only thing you have is just a single idea, then you start to develop this idea, which gets more and more complex and hopefully after some time it becomes a reality. I find very appealing the fact that you can do something that really counts, something that can contribute to make a difference. ”



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