VIB-KU LEUVEN CENTER FOR CANCER BIOLOGY

KU LEUVEN

Subject

Postdoctoral position: Tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy

Date

February 28th 2018

Position description:

A postdoctoral fellowship position is available in the area of tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy. The position is in the laboratory of Prof. Massimiliano Mazzone within the Center for Cancer Biology (CCB), Laboratory of Tumor Inflammation and Angiogenesis at the University of Leuven and VIB (Leuven, Belgium).

Candidates are sought to join a basic and translational research program focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms underlining immune cell localization and immunosuppression within the tumor and the modes of resistance to cancer immunotherapy. The project is embedded in the framework of an ERC (European Research Council) Consolidator program.

Requirements:

The ideal candidates must have a PhD in Cell Biology, Molecular Biology or (Tumor) Immunology. **Solid knowledge of T cell and immunobiology is mandatory for this application.** Experience in the area of in vivo cancer biology is a plus. The required skills include: mouse models, immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, in vitro assays.

Candidates must be proficient in oral and written English, excellent communication, and multi-tasking skills, and be team-oriented, proactive and results driven. Candidates are invited to apply for competitive fellowships during their stay in the lab.

The position can start on March 1st 2018 at the earliest. Interested candidates should send their résumé, containing a list of publications, a summary of past research, contact information of 2 or 3 referees, and a motivation letter to Prof. Massimiliano Mazzone (email: massimiliano.mazzone@kuleuven.vib.be).

About the lab:

The Laboratory of Tumor Inflammation and Angiogenesis offers a dynamic working environment within a stimulating scientific surrounding in an international, young, enthusiastic, motivated team (with English as main language). The laboratory is aiming to work on high-impact projects and research that can be translated into the clinical practice. The laboratory is part of the Center for Cancer Biology (CCB), a multidisciplinary research center focusing on cancer, genetics, metabolism and stroma. CCB offers many Core facilities including: Imaging, Molecular Biology, Metabolomics, Histology, Aquatic facility (zebrafish & tadpoles), transgenesis and mouse facility, etc. Technical support is granted within the lab. Remuneration is competitive.

Relevant publications:

Palmieri E, Menga A, Martín-Pérez R, Quinto A, Riera-Domingo C, De Tullio G, Lamers W, Hooper D, Ghesquière B, Guarin A, and **Mazzone M#,** Castegna A. Pharmacologic or genetic targeting of glutamine synthase skews macrophages towards an M1-like phenotype and strongly inhibits tumor metastasis. *Cell Reports,* 20(7):1654-1666 (2017).

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Wenes M, Shang M, Di Matteo M, Goveia J, Martín-Pérez R, Serneels J, Prenen H, Ghesquière B, Carmeliet P, and **Mazzone M#**. Macrophage metabolism controls tumor blood vessel morphogenesis and metastasis. Cell Metabolism, 24(5): 701-715 (2016).

Hamm A, Prenen H, van Delm W, Di Matteo M, Wenes M, Delemarre E, Schmidt T, Weitz J, Sarmiento R, Dezi A, Gasparini G, Rothé F, Schmitz R, D'Hoore A, Iserentant H, Hendlisz A, and **Mazzone M#**. Tumor-educated circulating monocytes are powerful candidate biomarkers for diagnosis and disease follow-up of colorectal cancer. Gut, 65(6): 990-1000 (2016).

Finisguerra V, Di Conza G, Di Matteo M, Serneels J, Costa S, Thompson R, Wauters E, Walmsley S, Prenen H, Granot Z, Casazza A, and **Mazzone M#**. MET in neutrophils is required for their anti-tumoural activity. Nature, 522(7556): 349-353 (2015).

Casazza A, Laoui D, Wenes M, Rizzolio S, Bassani N, Mambretti M, Deschoemaeker S, Van Ginderachter J, Tamagnone L, and **Mazzone M#**. Impeding macrophage entry into hypoxic tumor areas by Sema3A/Nrp1 signaling blockade inhibits angiogenesis and restores anti-tumor immunity. Cancer Cell, 24(6), 695-709 (2013).

Takeda Y, Costa S, Delamarre E, Roncal C, Leite De Oliveira R, Squadrito ML, Finisguerra V, Deschoemaeker S, Bruyère F, Wenes M, Hamm A, Serneels J, Magat J, Bhattacharyya T, Anisimov A, Jordan B, Alitalo K, Maxwell P, Gallez B, Zhuang Z, Saito Y, Simons M, De Palma M, and **Mazzone M#**. Macrophage skewing by PHD2 haplodeficiency prevents ischemia by inducing arteriogenesis. Nature, 479(7371), 122-116 (2011).