

WEBINAR 1 – February 20, 2025 - from 2 pm to 5 pm CET

Introduction

This first OEI-Academy webinar wants to offer a comprehensive training session to gain valuable insights on some of the most impactful funding opportunities sponsored by the Horizon Europe program, for early-stage professionals in the oncology field.

This session will cover the following topics:

- ***Horizon Europe - Mission Cancer.*** The initiative aims at improving - thorough research - the lives of cancer patients and accelerating the development of effective treatments.
- ***MSCA Fellowships (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions).*** Learn about the excellent opportunities provided by MSCA Fellowships for researchers to enhance their skills, gain international experience, and build their professional networks.
- ***ERC Grants (European Research Council)*** Get detailed information on ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants, which offer substantial funding for early- and mid-career researchers with the potential to become future leaders in their fields.

Program and speakers

2.00pm - 2.10pm CET	<i>Welcome Message and Introduction</i> Giovanni Apolone, OEI President Chiara Gabbi, OEI Academy Scientific Coordinator
2.10pm - 2.40pm CET	<i>Horizon Europe - Mission cancer</i> Jan-Willem Van De Loo - European Commission, Belgium
2.40pm - 3.10pm CET	<i>MSCA Fellowships</i> Stojan Sorčan – NCP Horizon Europe MSCA, Slovenia
3.10pm - 3.40pm CET	<i>ERC Grants</i> Fotios Vikas – ERC Executive Agency, Belgium
3.40pm - 4.00pm CET	<i>Q&A</i>
4.00pm - 4.25pm CET	<i>MSCA success story - tips from an awardee</i> Colm J O'Rourke - University of Copenhagen, Denmark
4.25pm - 4.50 pm CET	<i>ERC success story - tips from an awardee</i> Silvia Affò - IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain
4.50pm - 5.00pm CET	<i>Q&A and conclusions</i>

Learning objectives

- Understand Horizon Europe - Cancer Mission objectives, funding mechanisms, and how you can leverage this mission to support your research efforts.
- Discover the different types of MSCA Fellowships, eligibility criteria, and tips for a successful application.
- Understand the ERC application process, evaluation criteria, and receive insights on how to craft a compelling proposal.

Speakers



Dr. Silvia Affò is group leader of the “Tumor microenvironment plasticity and heterogeneity group” (TMHet) at IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain. After obtaining her PhD at the University of Barcelona, Dr Affò moved to Columbia University, NYC, US, where she dedicated to the investigation of the tumor microenvironment in liver tumors. In 2021, thanks to competitive European funding, Dr Affò rejoined Spain, and after obtaining the prestigious ERC Starting grant, she was promoted to Group leader in 2024. Dr Affò research is now focused on the tumor microenvironment manipulation as a strategy to improve response to therapy in patients with liver tumors.



Dr. Colm O'Rourke is Associate Professor of Liver Genomics and Biomarker Development at Biotech Research Innovation Centre, University of Copenhagen. Since joining the Andersen group in Denmark in 2015, he has been a postdoc, MSCA postdoctoral fellow, and assistant professor. His interests lie in translational omics of gastrointestinal cancers, including patient stratification and therapeutic development.



Dr. Stojan Sorčan is a sociologist and has worked for many years at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation in the Republic of Slovenia. In recent years, he has been the national contact point for MSCA calls under the European Horizon Europe programme, which aims to develop research careers through international mobility. He is a part of the network of all MSCA NCPs – MSCA-NET, where applicants can find support. In his work, he emphasises that to be successful in MSCA calls, applicants need to have an excellent knowledge of their research area, an ambitious research idea, supportive supervisor and host organisation, and sufficient time to prepare the application.



Dr Jan-Willem Van de Loo is a Scientific and Policy Officer and Cancer Theme Lead at the European Commission. He has experience in managing international cancer research, innovation policy, and stakeholder engagement. He led a team that co-created the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer. He has also contributed to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and several public-public and public-private research and innovation partnerships.



Dr. Fotios Vikas works in the Scientific Department of the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA). He has a PhD in Physics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. After working as a researcher in academia and in the clinical department of a multinational pharmaceutical company, he joined the ERCEA with a focus on the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases panel.