At the Institute for Experimental Molecular Imaging (ExMI), located in the Center for Biohybrid Medical Systems (CBMS), at the Universitätsklinikum Aachen and the Helmholtz Institute for Biomedical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University we are focusing on the development of novel contrast agents, imaging techniques and therapeutic approaches to characterize and treat cancer, cardiovascular and inflammatory disorders. We are aiming with our translational focus to perform research with direct implications for the clinic.

Job description

Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive and heterogeneous subtype of breast cancer with a high unmet patient need. The lack of clinically established targeted therapies limits the available therapeutic options, strongly impairing patients’ compliance and outcome. Immunotherapy is currently revolutionizing the treatment of cancer and although breast cancer has long been regarded as immunologically "cold", and therefore difficult to treat with immunotherapy, newer clinical studies now suggest that immunotherapy treatment has the potential to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients. The goal of the project is to develop, characterize and validate the effectiveness of a new class of cancer immunotherapeutics ("tunable and activatable immune system engagers", ta-ISERs), via means of in vitro bioengineered vascularized microtumors and in vivo preclinical models of triple-negative breast cancer.

Profile and requirements

We are seeking for a highly motivated PhD candidate (f/m/d) with a strong background in Biology, Biotechnology, Biomedical Engineering or Medical Sciences. The ideal applicant is fluent in written and spoken English (German is a plus) and has excellent communicative skills.

We offer:

- A 3-year employment contract, salaries according to the German civil service tariff (TV-L 13, 65%);
- a dynamic, multi-disciplinary, and international work environment with a state-of-the-art research infrastructure and fully equipped imaging lab (Vevo3100 Ultrasound System, Bruker 1.5T and 7T MRI, Bruker MPI, MILabs VECTO®R6 – U-OI);
- an excellent scientific network, consisting of world-wide known academic faculty members, established collaborations with several colleagues at RWTH Aachen University (The Pathology Institute, the Two-Photon Core Imaging Facility, the Institute of Laboratory Animal Science), universities (Twente, Utrecht, Maastricht, Wien) and companies (Syntab Therapeutics, Crystal Therapeutics, Black Drop Biodrucker GmbH) across Europe.

How to apply?

To apply please submit a cover letter stating clearly your motivation in applying for this PhD position, an up-to-date CV, and names and contact information of two academic referees to the contact listed below (subject: TAKTIRA – PhD position). Application deadline: 15.11.2019. The position will be filled as soon as a suitable applicant is identified.

Contact:

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