

# MSCA Horizon Europe DN Application

Eugen Stulz

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# Eugen Stulz

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School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering & Institute for Life Sciences

- DNA chemistry for bio-nanotechnology and life sciences / medicinal applications
- Nanomaterials (silver NPs, liposomes), microfluidics for energy and drug delivery

# Overview

- Before you start writing (Phase 1)
- Writing the proposal (Phase 2)
- What to expect during implementation (Phase 3)

## **H2020: Oligonucleotides for Medical Applications OLIGOMED**

15 ESRs, €4.2M (956070), 2021 – 2025

[www.oligomed.eu](http://www.oligomed.eu)



## **HE: OligoNucleotide Technologies for Rapid Advancement of Cancer Therapies ON-TRACT**

14 DCs, €4.4M (101227456), 2026 – 2030



# OLIGOMED

15 individual projects

ESR1, AstraZeneca SWEDEN

Enhancing ASO action and mRNA regulation in cardiometabolic disease

ESR7, University of Cambridge UK

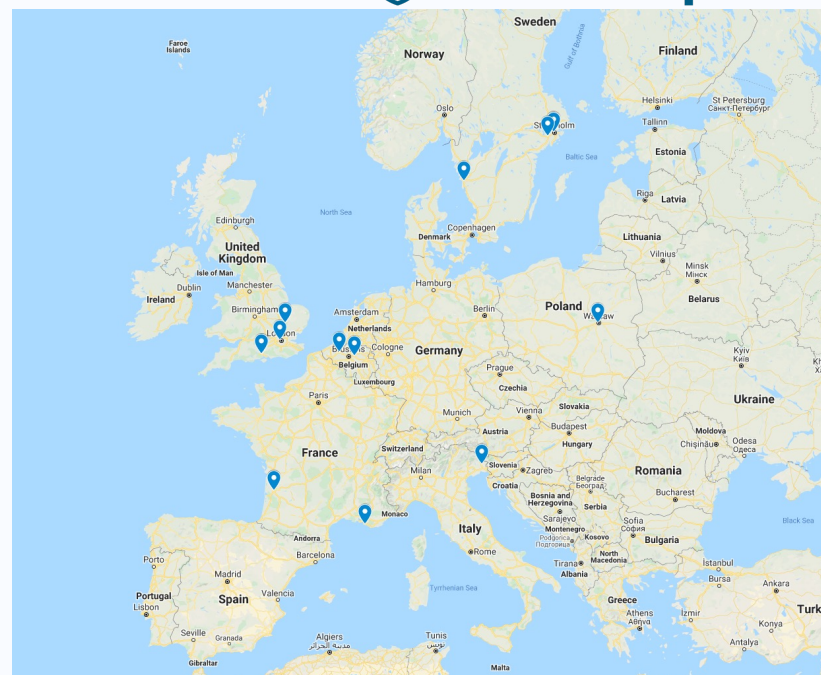
Directed evolution of enzymes for the synthesis of modified non-natural nucleoside building blocks for oligonucleotide therapeutics

ESR10, University of Udine ITALY

Live confocal microscopy for evaluation of ONs delivery

# Our journey

- 2015: OLIGOMED (H2020): 89.40%
    - With the help of writing agency
  - 2016: OLIGOMED (H2020): 92.80%
  - 2017: OLIGOMED (H2020): 91.60%
  - 2019: OLIGOMED (H2020): 93.00%
  - 2020: OLIGOMED (H2020): 95.60%
    - Threshold 95.60%
    - Submissions ~1285
    - Funded 18 (~8%) in Chemistry
- 
- The consortium started very differently: several member changes over time
  - Initially seeded from ongoing collaborations that were independent of each other



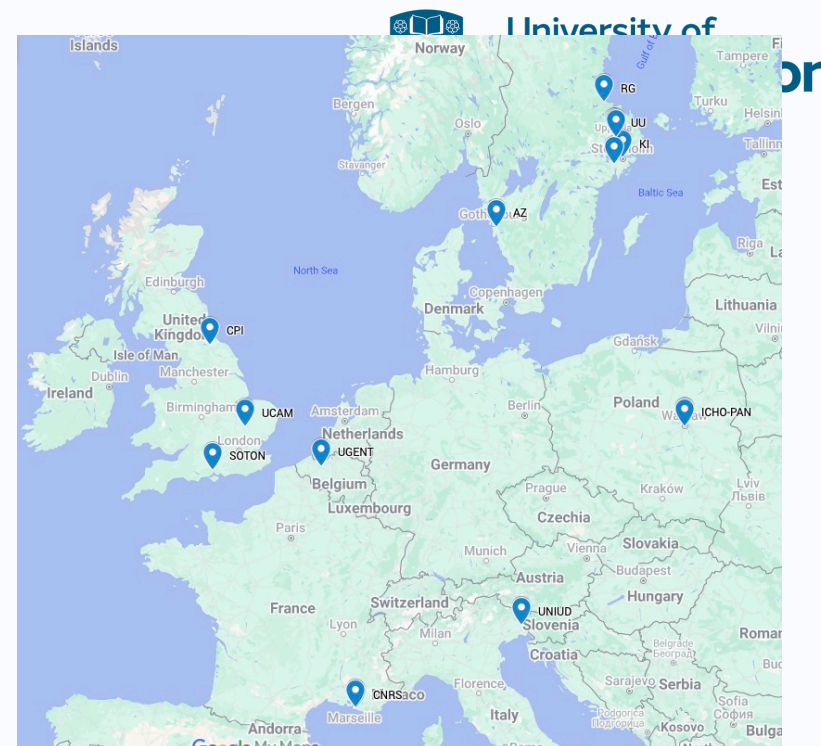
# ON-TRACT

- 2024: ON-TRACT (HE): 97.80%

Excellence 4.90/5 (50%)

Impact 5.0/5 (30%)

Implementation 4.70/5 (20%)



	MSCA-DN-2024: Cumulative percentage of proposals above threshold, with a given score or higher (with funding range marked in green)								
Number of eligible proposals	166	18	520	120	329	17	93	142	1405
Cut off score for funding	97	94,2	96,6	97,2	95,6	98,8	95,6	95,4	
Score equal to or above	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	Grand Total
100	2,41%	0,00%	1,15%	3,33%	1,22%	0,00%	3,23%	2,11%	1,71%
99	2,41%	0,00%	1,92%	3,33%	2,13%	0,00%	4,30%	2,11%	2,28%
98	6,63%	5,56%	6,15%	9,17%	3,65%	5,88%	6,45%	5,63%	5,84%
97	10,84%	5,56%	9,42%	11,67%	6,38%	11,76%	7,53%	7,04%	8,68%
96	15,66%	5,56%	13,27%	13,33%	8,51%	11,76%	7,53%	9,15%	11,53%
95	21,08%	5,56%	16,35%	15,83%	13,98%	17,65%	12,90%	13,38%	15,66%
94	23,49%	11,11%	21,15%	20,00%	18,84%	23,53%	20,43%	16,20%	20,14%
93	29,52%	16,67%	26,35%	23,33%	23,10%	23,53%	20,43%	20,42%	24,56%
92	33,13%	16,67%	31,73%	25,83%	27,05%	23,53%	23,66%	21,13%	28,40%
91	40,36%	16,67%	35,58%	30,00%	31,91%	29,41%	32,26%	22,54%	32,95%
90	45,18%	22,22%	38,27%	33,33%	34,95%	35,29%	37,63%	26,06%	36,37%
89	49,10%	27,78%	41,35%	39,17%	39,21%	35,29%	42,01%	28,87%	40,21%

Beneficiaries		Associated Partners	
University of Southampton	SOTON	AstraZeneca AB Göteborg	AZ
Karolinska Institutet	KI	Strike Pharma AB Uppsala	STRIKE
The Chancellor Masters And Scholars Of The University Of Cambridge	UCAM	PeptiSystems AB Järvälla	PSAB
Research Institutes of Sweden AB	RISE	CPI Innovation Services UK	CPI
Uppsala Universitet	UU	Instytut Biologii Doswiadczalnej Im. M. Nenckiego Polskiej Akademii Nauk Warsaw	NENCKI
Universiteit Gent	UGENT		
Università degli Studi di Udine	UNIUD	Associated Partners linked to a beneficiary	
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS Marseille	CNRS	Region Gävleborg (Uppsala)	RG
Institute Of Organic Chemistry - Polish Academy Of Sciences Warsaw	ICHO PAN	Université D'aix Marseille	AMU

# Phase 1

## Before you start writing

- Think about your consortium. This is dictated by several factors:
  - The science you want to do
  - Who you know, and who your friends know
  - How everybody fits in
  - How reliable they are



# Phase 1

- Think about your consortium. This is dictated by several factors:

- The science you want to do

Have a vision of your research. What? Why? Importance? Benefit for society? Training opportunities? State-of-the-art and how do you improve it? Career perspectives for students?

- How everybody fits in

A, B, C make devices; D, E, F use them; feedback loop

Design projects to work in parallel, staggered may look good but not always practicable.

- How reliable they are

As coordinator, you do everything. Support from the consortium depends a lot on their personality (very few do a lot, most do help as needed, some do close to nothing).

# Phase 1

- Should you meet in person?
  - For OLIGOMED, we had 3 in-person meetings (Southampton, Brussels UKRO meeting rooms, Gent)
  - For ON-TRACT, we only met online

If you can, meet in person, at least once

# Phase 2

## Writing the proposal

- It takes a lot of time!
  - Start early. If you need to build up the consortium: January. You will hear in April the following year.
  - Knowledge of the process and template is crucial
  - Use a staged approach to bid writing
  - Be prepared for a lot of work, especially nearing submission
  - Be prepared to chase everyone repeatedly
  - Meet regularly with the consortium, keep everyone updated and in the loop
  - Should you accept help?
    - Your local EU support office
    - Bid writing agencies
    - GenAI

# Phase 2

- Adhere to the template
  - Consult the MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS HANDBOOK

## 1.4 Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects)

Required sub-headings:

- Qualifications and supervision experience of supervisors.
  - Demonstrate, with hard evidence, the qualification of the research supervisors in terms of training/supervision of researchers, and appropriateness of their profiles regarding the training and research objectives of the project.
  - You probably do not have enough space to write one paragraph per participating supervisor. Instead write a collective statement about the expertise of the consortium as a whole. Do not leave out the Associated Partners (secondment mentors and co-mentors).
  - Demonstrate the complementarity between the supervisors (e.g., sector, expertise, techniques, equipment, supervision experience).
  - You can plan measures for the less experimented supervisors (e.g., mentoring between supervisors).
  - Include number of PhDs graduated, numbers of postdocs mentored. If you have enough space, you can provide a table to structure the information on supervisors (name, organisation, expertise and publication, experience and leadership roles) and to indicate the number of doctoral candidates who will be supervised.
  - In section 8 – description of participating organisation – you can provide more details to show research excellence of the supervisors (grants, awards, editorial board membership, important journal articles/conference papers/ monographs, etc.).

# Phase

## • Adherence

### 1.4 Quality of the doctoral project

#### Required sub-headings

#### • Qualifications

#### ➤ Demonstration of training/supervision and training and

#### ➤ You probably

#### ➤ Instead write

#### ➤ leave out the

#### ➤ Demonstration

#### ➤ techniques,

#### ➤ You can plan

#### ➤ supervisors

#### ➤ Include number

#### ➤ you can provide

#### ➤ expertise and

#### ➤ doctoral candidate

#### ➤ In section 8

#### ➤ research experience

#### ➤ journal articles/conference papers/ monographs, etc.).

### STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. The qualifications, track records and skills of the supervisors are excellent and fully match the proposal's fields of research. Many of them have shown to be world leading scientists and to have received prestigious awards and grants as well as to have extensive experience in coordinating and being involved in MSCA actions.
2. Measures are in place to ensure appropriate support and review procedures, as well as the necessary feedback mechanisms. The plan to brief all supervisors on the Guidelines for MSCA supervision at the beginning of the project ensures a consistent approach and quality among all partners.
3. Supervision arrangements are overall appropriate to support DCs and provide progress and review procedures. Beneficiaries not entitled to award PhDs will be supported with a co-supervision and partnership with universities. DCs will maintain regular contact with supervisors through regular visits, additional to secondments, to monitor and discuss their progress.
4. The quality of the proposed supervision measures is very high. The joint supervision arrangements are convincingly described, with biweekly formal meetings involving the two supervisors. Furthermore, supervision training and common good practices will be addressed at the kick-off meeting.
5. Valuable and efficient mixed academic and non-academic system of co-supervision is proposed. Supervision hierarchy is credible and involves several levels – supervisor, co-supervisor, Doctoral Candidate Progress Committee and Supervisory Board.
6. In addition to the Thesis Board, the Supervision Agreement and Career Development Plans provide useful guidance to students. Also, the inclusion of a mentor outside of the supervisory team provides additional support to doctoral students.

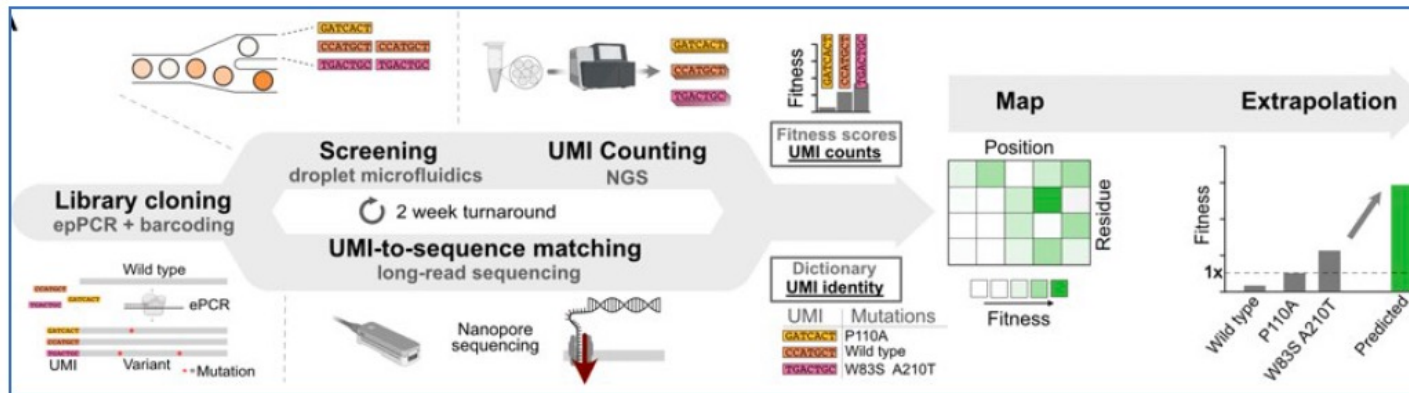
### WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. Given the high complexity of the activity and the planned co-supervision, the proposed review, evaluation procedures, project reports to relevant boards, feedback mechanisms and means of working among the advisory team are insufficiently detailed.
2. Although most of the supervisors are experienced, it is not sufficiently clear whether all DCs will be mentored to the same level of quality by each of the proposed co-supervisors pairs.
3. The proposal does not sufficiently explain which structures (meetings, internal reports) will be adopted by the supervisors to follow the progress of the DCs towards scientific and training goals.
4. Supervision arrangements and division of responsibilities between the main- and co-supervisors are insufficiently detailed.
5. Some aspects of the joint-supervision are not detailed. For instance, the progress monitoring aspect and the time commitment of supervisors, are not sufficiently elaborated.

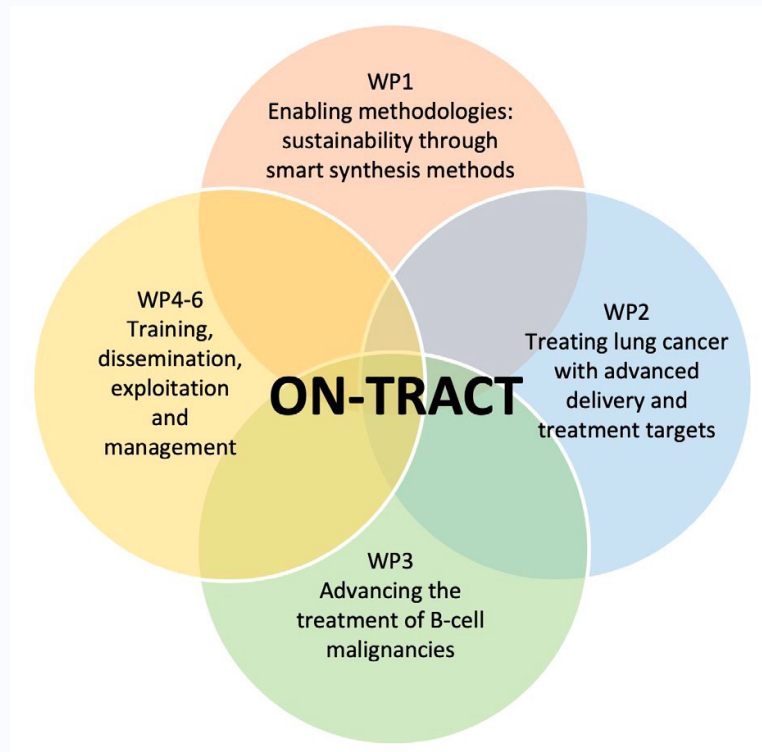
# Phase 2

- Adhere to the template
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  - There are mandatory parts and tables that you need to keep
  - Make the formatting accessible; you can change font (very limited), colour, layout, but not the content





- There are mandatory parts and tables
- Make the formatting accessible; you can change the layout, but not the content



work by the commission a Consortium Agreement (CA) will be partners. The CA will specify the contractors' obligations, agreement and intellectual property rights. Since the majority of its at other partners within the consortium a specific part of the financial management will be the allocation of participation expenses of participants without employment, but with direct inputs into the training programme, this will be by compensating these partners based on the periods of secondment. Over the whole project overheads and management costs will be allocated proportionally.

#### B.4.8. Advertising and Recruitment

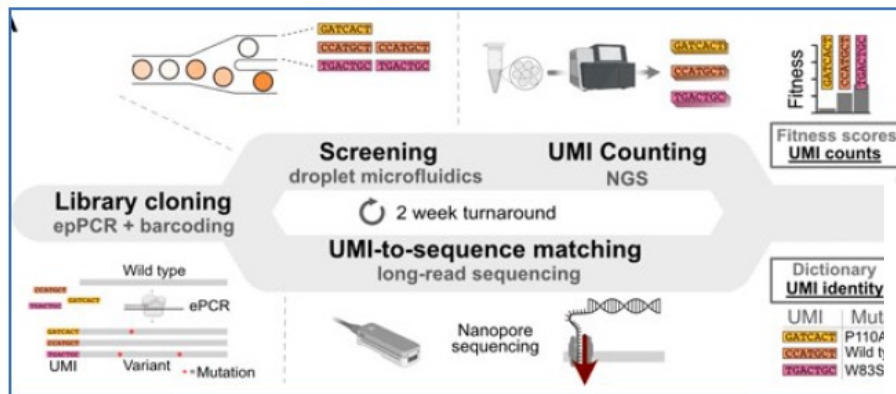
The recruitment of ESRs and ER will be given highest priority in the initial phase to ensure that the network attracts candidates at the highest level possible. For the recruitment of staff and students for the project (Month 1-8), a short-lived Recruitment Committee (RC) consisting of the supervisors responsible for the students and staff concerned, the respective WP-Leader and the Training Coordinator (according local employment policy) will be established. It is agreed that the selection of the NUCLEOTECH candidates will be based on the following two criteria, listed in order of their importance: a) Academic and scientific ability; b) Compatibility between the candidate's doctoral theme/research background and the Hosting Institute research area. Vacancies for the NUCLEOTECH programme will be advertised in various ways:

- A Through the internet by announcing the vacancy on the European Commission EURAXESS Job Portal, as well as the Marie Curie Actions Human Resources and Mobility Actions web site, the CORDIS web site, and on [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk);
  - B Via job vacancy web pages provided by European Technology Platforms/Networks/Councils.
  - C With advertisements in the most important European Scientific Journals related to nucleoside and DNA technology as well as in Nature;
  - D With a leaflet that will be distributed at International Conferences and Workshops in nucleoside and DNA technology;
  - D The seven NUCLEOTECH University partners have links with most of the Academic and Research Centres who conduct research in nucleoside and DNA technology. E-mails with an advertisement of the NUCLEOTECH MC ITN will be forwarded to these centres.
- The applicant will be asked to indicate in his/her application which of the seven centres of the NUCLEOTECH network he/she wishes to carry out his/her training. The application will consist of:
- A An application form with personal data and full details of the research currently carried out by the applicant (forms will be made available through internet or by mail);
  - B Two references in a sealed envelope, one by the academic supervisor of the candidate;
  - C A detailed Curriculum Vitae;
  - D Copy of an ID document of the candidate.

The candidate will send their application to the chosen Hosting Institute and the applicant may be interviewed. The coordinator will monitor the selection process in order to guarantee equal opportunities with respect to Nationality and equal opportunities between men and women of the applicants. As the programme coordinator, the University of Southampton fully supports and adheres to the Concordat for Career Development, The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. This process will lead to a coordinated employment of a cohort of ESRs and the E and it is envisaged that all ESRs and the ER will start together in month 10 (Sept. 2013). Funds will be allocated to each partner to cover expenses associated with hiring of ESRs and ER needed for the project.

**WP6: Dissemination and outreach.** Web site development for network information exchange. Lead: Dr. Eugen Stulz, SOTON.

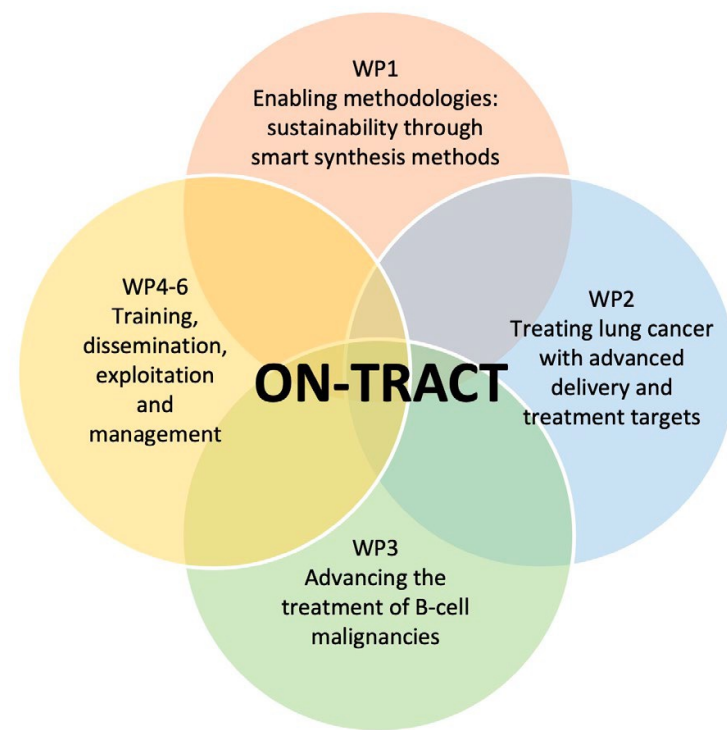
To facilitate information flow, advertise NUCLEOTECH activities to the outside, and bridge the spatial divide between all Network participants, a web-based communication platform will be established. The website will be used to build up and expand a digital library for nucleoside chemistry and DNA technology-related teaching units that exist with the Network scientists and will be developed as part of the joint training activities. The development of this site will be undertaken with the ESRs and ER to train the researchers in web based teaching techniques, and public outreach. Modern web-based digital communication will also be used to facilitate real-time video conferencing, remote participation in lectures and interactive discussion forums. It is thought that this will form a core resource in the field that will be a community teaching resource beyond the duration and scope of the Network itself and will ensure that best practice will be disseminated effectively and widely. SOTON has excellent expertise in



- There are mandatory parts
- Make the formatting acces layout, but not the content

- The training frameworks include structured elements such as workshops and annual events (e.g., ON-TRACT network meetings), enabling collaboration and skill-sharing across other ITNs/DNs. Industry-academia collaboration is strongly embedded in the programme, with dedicated business-focused events, inter-sectoral projects, and co-supervision by academic and industry experts.
- Transferable skills training is a priority, covering areas like intellectual property, communication, ethics, project management, entrepreneurship and business plan development. Obtaining strong transferable skills always add greatly to the employability of researchers, and this will enhance the DCs chances to obtain high level positions substantially.
- The programme upholds a commitment to quality through a structured work package (WP5) and dedicated coordinators. ON-TRACT also emphasise international exposure by encouraging candidates to attend conferences and trade shows, helping them build professional networks and develop presentation skills. The DCs will also be introduced to “[ResearchComp: The European Competence Framework for Researchers](#)” and the “[Vitae Researcher Development Framework \(RDF\)](#)” during their induction to the consortium which will help them to develop their own transversal skills.

*Collectively, this initiative fosters the growth of highly skilled, adaptable researchers poised to make significant contributions to the field of targeted ON based therapeutics and will help to improve Europe's and global healthcare system by addressing the demands of both academic and non-academic sectors. Our training programme strives to be international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary.*



ON-TRACT DCs will develop the following skills:

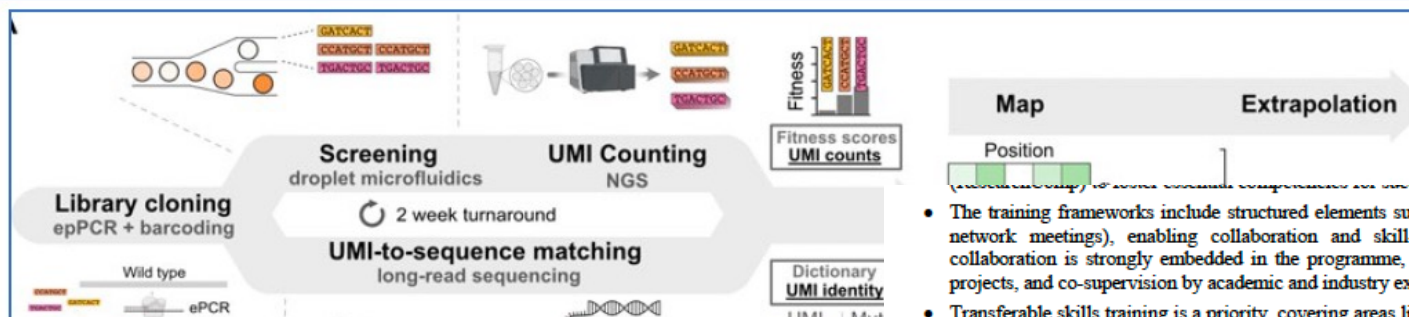
Skill	Training
<b>Core research skills and scientific training</b>	Provided via the individual project including secondments, which includes interdisciplinary training at both academic and academic/industrial partners. The focus will be on ON therapy training including synthesis, delivery and analysis.
<b>Advanced scientific training and research skills</b>	DCs will be exposed to additional scientific training during the network wide meetings. Specifically ON therapy focussed training will be provided by the network Partners, and we will also invite external speakers to broaden the horizon of the DCs' scientific understanding; this will involve input by the DCs. Topics include advanced ON synthesis and analysis, mAb function and bioconjugation, targeted delivery, clinical trials as well as sustainability, GMP/GLP, quality management and academic conduct.
<b>Transferable and complementary skills</b>	Delivered consortium wide through the ON-TRACT training weeks' seminars and lectures. DCs will use the RDF or EuroComp planners. The focus is on both academic (e.g. problem solving, data analysis and maintenance, scientific writing) and academic/industrial (e.g. general writing, dissemination) transferable skills.
<b>Open Science related training modules</b>	Network wide training in form of lectures will be provided to the DCs and include FAIR data management, open access publication, digital technologies (writing, literature research, data analysis, collaborative tools such as MS Teams) and public engagement.

Funds will be allocated to each partner to cover expenses associated with hiring of ESRs and ER needed for the project.

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To facilitate information flow, advertise NUCLEOTECH activities to the outside, and bridge the spatial divide between all Network participants, a web-based communication platform will be established. The website will be used to build up and expand a digital library for nucleoside chemistry and DNA technology-related teaching units that exist with the Network scientists and will be developed as part of the joint training activities. The development of this site will be undertaken with the ESRs and ER to train the researchers in web based teaching techniques, and public outreach. Modern web-based digital communication will also be used to facilitate real-time video conferencing, remote participation in lectures and interactive discussion forums. It is thought that this will form a core resource in the field that will be a community teaching resource beyond the duration and scope of the Network itself and will ensure that best practice will be disseminated effectively and widely. SOTON has excellent expertise in





## 2. Impact #@IMP-ACT-IA@#

The key impacts of ON-TRACT will be:

- Equipping DCs with top-class skills making them attractive for both academic independent research as well as industrial higher-level positions.
- Providing an excellently structured research training programme at a quality level well in accordance with expectations from the scientific community.
- Delivering scientific research output at the highest-level including peer reviewed high impact open access publications and public engagement.
- Establishing flexible platform technologies that will be taken forward for clinical evaluation.
- Contributing to the development of the next generation of targeted delivery of ON-based drugs.

The ON-TRACT project brings together a balanced academic and industrial expertise to develop novel therapeutics that advances the use of ONs in the treatment of cancer.

- **Societal:** the training of greatly skilled researchers, with a mix of chemical, biomedical and analytical expertise with project management skills, will be beneficial to society by delivering new drugs and health care. A major impact will be to improve the quality of life of patients.
- **Scientific:** ON-TRACT will accelerate the development of novel therapeutics that are inherently difficult to treat but pose a great uphill battle. In future, the achievements will lead to the development of "undruggable" targets.
- **Economic / technological:** the developed technology and platform portfolio of successful therapies, advance the use of ONs to reduce societal incumbrances and increase economic growth.
- **Health:** Successful ON therapies will enhance treatment of cancer by providing a specific and personalised approach with fewer off-target effects. They will improve survival rates, reduce the burden of adverse effects, and enhance the quality of life for patients with cancers that are resistant to conventional treatments.

- The training frameworks include structured elements such as workshops and annual events (e.g., ON-TRACT network meetings), enabling collaboration and skill-sharing across other ITNs/DNs. Industry-academia collaboration is strongly embedded in the programme, with dedicated business-focused events, inter-sectoral projects, and co-supervision by academic and industry experts.
- Transferable skills training is a priority, covering areas like intellectual property, communication, ethics, project management. Obtaining strong transferable skills always add value to the DCs chances to obtain high level positions

through a structured work package (WP5) and dedicated training exposure by encouraging candidates to attend conferences, workshops and develop presentation skills. The DCs will also be supported by the "Competence Framework for Researchers" and the "Vitae" framework for their induction to the consortium which will help them to

skilled, adaptable researchers poised to make significant contributions to the development of novel therapeutics and will help to improve Europe's and global health through academic and non-academic sectors. Our training programme is interdisciplinary.

Table 1.4: Qualification and complementarity of expertise of ON-TRACT supervisors.

PI Name	Organisation	Main supervisor DC Nr	co-supervisor DC Nr	Partners: No of PhDs supervised	Expertise								
					Organic synthesis	Biophysical ON study	Molecular biology	Drug delivery	Drug discovery	IP / comer- cialisation	<i>in vitro / in vivo</i>	Biopharmacy / formulation	microscopy / omics
Eugen Stulz	SOTON	4,6,13	5,8	18	X	X		X					
Roger Strömberg	KI	2	1	20	X	X		(X)	X	X			
Florian Hollfelder	CAMB	1	13	39	(X)	X	X	(X)		X	X		X
Kristina Karalè	RISE	3	2	0	X								
Sara Mangsbo	UU	7,11	10,12	17			X	X	X	X	X		
Annemieke Madder	UGENT	9,12	3,4	38	X	X		X					
Carlo Vascotto	UNIUD	8	6	7			X				X		X
Ling Peng	CNRS	10,14	9,11	22	X			X			X	X	
Dorota Gryko	ICHO-PAN	5	14	14	X			X					
Anna Rydzik*	AZ		1,2,3,4,11		X	X		X	X				
Johanna Salomon*	AZ		6,7,9,10				X	X			X	X	X
Rosanne Veerman*	STRIKE		5,12,13,14				X	X	X	X	X		
Johan Isaksson	RG		7				X				X		
Jędrzej Szymański*	NENCKI		8										X

\* Industrial co-supervisors

that exist with the Network scientists and will be developed as part of the development of this site will be undertaken with the ESRs and ER to train in teaching techniques, and public outreach. Modern web-based digital tools will be used to facilitate real-time video conferencing, remote participation in lectures and interactive discussion forums. It is thought that this will form a core resource in the field that will be a community teaching resource beyond the duration and scope of the Network itself and will ensure that best practice will be disseminated effectively and widely. SOTON has excellent expertise in

# Phase 2

- Adhere to the template
  - Consult the MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS HANDBOOK
  - There are mandatory parts and tables that you need to keep
  - Make the formatting accessible; you can change font, colour, layout, but not the content
  - Make the proposal "user-friendly": don't assume anything, include all information, but have a flowing narrative
  - Your case: Ask questions and answer them
    - *Where can [research theme] make a difference?*
    - *Why is it difficult to implement [research theme]?*
    - *"CONSORTIUM" will tackle these challenges through...*

## Phase 2

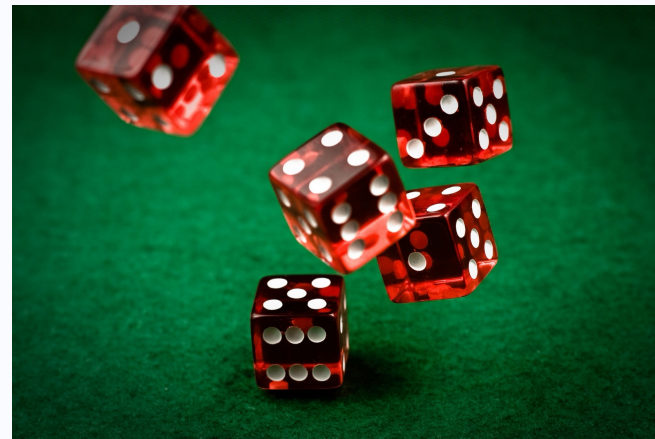
- Whatever you write will be carved in stone when accepted
  - Changes are possible during the implementation, but can be painful
- Be mindful about deliverables and milestones. Some are mandatory (administrative), but what you write is what you are expected to do
- Make sure all beneficiaries and partners are embedded equally and reasonably
- ***Be careful about ethics***
  - The beneficiary states: "Any data collected will not reveal names of individuals, and no sensitive data will be collected", which suggests that personal data may be collected within this project.

# Phase 2

Think about:

- Group in Work Packages; synergies and collaborations are crucial
- Embed all DCs, make crosslinks between projects
- Meaningful secondments (max 1/3 of time)
- Gender balance, Open science, Appropriate supervision structure, Publications for ESRs, Information sharing, Decision making process, Scientific misconduct, Monitoring and supporting ESRs, Added value of partners...
- Descriptor: they have an impact on the selection of the reviewers
- Don't forget Part A
- *It's all about training*
- **Don't miss the deadline!**

<b>ESR 12</b>	<b>Host:</b> SOTON <b>PhD enrolment:</b> Yes (SOTON)	<b>Main supervisor:</b> Prof E. Stulz <b>Co-supervisors:</b> Prof P. Barthélémy (academic), Dr A. Perdrix Rosell (industrial)	<b>Start date:</b> M6 <b>Duration:</b> 36 mths <b>Period:</b> M6-41	<b>Deliverables:</b> D1.1/2, D4.1 – 4.4 <b>Milestones:</b> 4,7,8,10,14
<b>Project title:</b> Modular DNA nanopore (NP) for targeted cell killing (WP1, WP4).				
<b>Objectives:</b> [1] Synthesis and characterisation of <i>lipid anchor modified ONs</i> for NPs (porphyrin, cholesterol, lipids, MB), nanopore stability and cell membrane insertion; [2] application of <i>mAb and aptamer cross-linking</i> for cell targeting, developed by UGENT, SB and UHSFT; [3] assembly of a <i>modular NP containing anchor, mAb, aptamer, CpG and chromophore conjugates</i> ; [4] <i>application of the NP</i> to cancer cell lines and <i>in vivo</i> testing in mouse models.				
<b>Expected Results / Key Innovations:</b> [1] development of <i>functional NPs with enhanced biological stability, targeting and membrane insertion</i> ; [2] a <i>modular NP system will be developed</i> , adjustable to different cancer cell lines opening the way to personalised medicine.				
<b>Secondments:</b> [1] SB, M18-19, 1 months: conjugation of NP ONs with aptamers for specific cell targeting; [2] UNIUD, M26, 2 month: analysis of cell targeting and imaging of membrane insertion; [3] UHSFT, M33-35, 3 months: determination of cytotoxicity and cancer cell proliferation <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> .				



# If it didn't work out...

- Take the comments seriously and improve negative points
- Change consortium composition if needed

*(-) previous*

*The proposal does not provide a comprehensive overview with respect to the state of the art.*

*The relevant scientific literature is not adequately discussed.*

*The meetings between the direct supervisory team from the different sectors to discuss progresses or problems have not been clearly described.*

*The proposed research related training programme is not sufficiently multidisciplinary.*

*Industrial partner's role in training overlaps more than complementing the academic one.*

*The proposed management structure is overly heavy.*

*Transferable skills do not include orthogonal practical research activities complementary to each ESR main activity.*

*The tasks within the workpackages are not defined with sufficient detail.*

*The added value of the participant XXX in addition to YYY is not clearly presented.*



*(+) current*

*The work proposed is timely and responds to societal and scientific needs.*

*The objectives are credible and feasible overall; they include appropriate and measurable means to verify their achievement.*

*The individual projects of the recruited researchers are slightly too diverse and partially unfocused, but this is a minor shortcoming for this proposed doctoral network and they will still contribute to the overall research goals.*

*Aspects on how to adhere to open science practices for publications as well as for research data are well included, and for example, the pre-registration of study protocols is a positive aspect.*

*The quality of the supervision is very high. It shows a carefully balanced set of experts in the different areas of the proposal tailored to the doctoral candidates' needs.*

*The non-academic partners will actively contribute by participating in the supervision of DCs [...] and also by providing network-wide training sessions, covering topics relevant for industry such as IPR and commercialisation.*

# Phase 3

## Implementation

A. Contributions for recruited researchers					B. Institutional contributions	
A1. Living allowance (€)	A2. Mobility allowance (€)	A3. Family allowance (if applicable) (€)	A4. Long term leave (if applicable) (€)	A5. Special needs (if applicable) (€)	B1. Research training and networking contribution (€)	B2. Management and indirect contribution (€)
4010*	710	660	4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x 1/ number of PM	1600	1200

- Initial phase will be very busy (~2 months)
- The PO will be your contact
- Try to get an experienced PM
- Prepare a calendar with deliverables, milestones and reports
- Document changes and deviations
- Start recruitment early, posts need to be filled by month 12. Adhere to the correct process (EURAXESS, mobility, documentation...)
- Hold meetings with the consortium early on
- Make sure everybody understands the finance
- Establish website in month 1
- Ensure DCs understand their rights and obligations
- Do not underestimate pastoral care



# Phase 3

## Output

- 34 Publications
- 2 international conferences organized (IRT Stockholm, Suprabio 2024 in Bordeaux)
- Extensive Wikipedia activity
- 15 short videos + 1 introduction video (YouTube)
- Participation with other EU networks
- New collaborations leading to new DN submission
- Public outreach (e.g. Pint of Science)

# Phase 3

## Challenges

- Brexit: recruitment, international fees
- Covid
- War in Ukraine
- Cultural and national issues
- Beneficiary defaulting
- Getting deliverables done on time
- Extending PhD funding past ESR contract

## OLIGOMED

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## ON-TRACT

*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*



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# YOUR QUESTIONS