

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Provide simple explanations supported with figures.”

Name of the fellow: Halil İbrahim Ciftci
Country of the host: Türkiye
Project Acronym: Super-HIPPO
Project start and end date: 1.09.2023 – 31.08.2025
Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Postdoctoral Fellowship



What is your project about and why is the topic important for science advancement?

The project is about the discovery of new anti-HIV drugs. At present, there is no effective cure for HIV/AIDS. Thus, my proposal involves the development of new therapeutics for HIV eradication that would stop the budding stage of HIV cell cycle. To this end multi-disciplinary research including medicinal chemistry, nanotechnology, in vitro activity, structural biology and in silico simulation studies will be implemented.

Why is your project important for the society?

If the purpose of the study is achieved, the designed anti-HIV drugs could have the potential to eliminate whole HIV-infected cells, something that would have an enormous impact globally. Thus, HIV positive patients will not need to undergo lifelong multi-drug therapy. Consequently, associated costs can be drastically reduced by the proposed new treatment, leading to safer and cheaper treatment options.

Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

I have been doing research in Japan for 10 years and I chose Turkey as the host country to establish the first “Anti-HIV

Drug Discovery Platform” and to train students in this field.

How did you find your host organisation?

I specifically chose a university in Izmir, the city where I studied for my undergraduate degree. The other important reason for choosing Izmir Katip Celebi University is the facilities, which will provide me with a platform for working in the nanotechnology area.

What kind of support did you get?

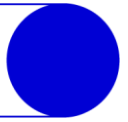
I received pre-evaluation support from TUBITAK, including a review and evaluation of my MSCA PF proposal by a consulting company that assisted me throughout my application process.

What tips can you give other researchers who would like to apply for MSCA?

I advise them to take risks, make their projects multi-disciplinary and provide simple explanations supported with figures.

More information on the project:





The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) support researchers at all stages of their career across all disciplines. The MSCA also support cooperation between industry and academia and provide innovative trainings and career developments.

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) enable talented researchers to work on project in Europe and beyond. They aim at enhancing the innovative potential of postdoctoral researchers through advanced trainings, international and intersectoral mobility.

The MSCA-NET project is the MSCA NCP project to facilitate the transnational cooperation to achieve a consistent and harmonised level of NCP support. The scientific community can also profit from our project to support their MSCA application.

