

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Balancing ambition with realistic goal-setting is essential for success.”

Name of the fellow: Dimitra Flouri

Country of the host: Cyprus

Project Acronym: InSilicoPlacenta

Project start and end date: 10.07.2023 - 09.07.2025

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Postdoctoral Fellowship



What is your project about?

The placenta is a temporary organ critical for fetal growth and development. Placenta abnormalities can lead to pregnancy disorders such as fetal growth restriction (FGR), a condition in which the fetus does not grow physiologically. The InSilicoPlacenta project aims to develop a novel computer-based framework, that will provide a comprehensive understanding of the structural and functional placental abnormalities associated with FGR.

Why is your project important for society?

FGR affects ~4.0 million pregnancies in the European Union per year, contributing to 30% of stillbirths. At present there is no effective treatment to reverse the course of FGR, except early delivery. Early delivery can cause lifelong effects on preterm babies such as cardiovascular diseases. InSilicoPlacenta will provide information on how well the placenta works during pregnancy. This will help in early identification and diagnosis of FGR as well as in clinical decision making by estimating the optimal time of delivery to avoid stillbirth.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

Academic communication will be achieved through conference presentations and publication of results in open-access journals. To engage with the public, I plan to participate in local science communication events.

Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

I chose Cyprus as a host country not only because it is my home country but also based on the expertise required for the project. The main supervisor is an expert in his field of study and has successfully built a good research team. I hope to enhance my skills and knowledge and to contribute to the creation of collaboration opportunities in my home country.

How did you find your host organisation?

I met my supervisor through former colleagues. I first contacted him via email and then arranged a meeting when I came to Cyprus.

What kind of support did you get?

In the early stages, support was provided from the prospective supervisors, the host and the partner institutions. I also greatly benefited from

a dedicated seminar that was organised by the Cyprus National Contact Point (NCP) 3 months before the submission date. The seminar, together with the [MSCA-NET handbook](#) provided valuable insights into the application writing process.

Do you have a non-academic placement within your project? If you do, what is the purpose of the placement?

My project includes a placement at GE Healthcare in London. The placement will be a great opportunity to boost my career connections and to receive access to innovative imaging technologies in a world-leading healthcare company.

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

Choose a project that you are passionate about and that will showcase your strengths. The proposed project should build on your past expertise and delve into new areas to demonstrate growth. It is important to seek out supervisors that will provide you with opportunities while also allowing you to make meaningful contribution to their research. The MSCA fellowship is extremely competitive and prestigious. Balancing ambition with realistic goal-setting is essential for success.

More information on the project:



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) support researchers at all stage 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.

