

Widening Country Success Story

“Clearly articulate your goals, expected outcomes, and societal relevance.”

Name of the fellow: Chrysovalantis Voutouri
Country of the host: Cyprus
Project Acronym: CancerCOtreat
Project start and end date: 1.05.2021-30.04.2024
Type of MSCA, Horizon 2020: Individual Fellowship

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

Our project focuses on developing an in silico systems biology approach to model SARS-CoV-2 infection and drug actions in cancer patients with COVID-19 and other preconditions. This topic is crucial for science advancement as it accelerates the repurposing of existing drugs and helps identify optimal treatment combinations and schedules. This research is timely and has broader implications, setting a mathematical framework for treating cancer patients with various infectious diseases, ultimately improving clinical outcomes.

Why is your project important for society?

Our project holds significant societal importance as it aims to improve treatment outcomes for vulnerable cancer patients with COVID-19 and other preconditions. By identifying optimal drug combinations and schedules, we can enhance patient care and reduce the burden on healthcare systems.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

To ensure public engagement, we plan to disseminate our findings through scientific



publications, conferences, and Open Access platforms. Additionally, we will organise seminars, workshops, and webinars to educate healthcare professionals and the public about our research and its implications. Collaborations with patient advocacy groups and media outlets will further amplify our message and foster dialogue on this critical issue.

Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

I chose Cyprus as a host country due to its strong research infrastructure, particularly in the fields of systems biology and cancer research. The country's academic and research institutions foster a collaborative environment, facilitating interdisciplinary knowledge exchange. Additionally, Cyprus offers a high quality of life, making it an attractive destination for researchers. The unique blend of research excellence and a supportive living environment makes Cyprus an ideal choice for our project's success.

How did you find your host organisation?

I identified the host organisation through a combination of online research and networking within the scientific community. Their strong reputation in systems biology and cancer research, along with a history of successful collaborations, made them an ideal match for our project.



What kind of support did you get?

During the application process, I received valuable support and guidance from various sources. The MSCA National Contact Points (NCPs) at the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) provided us with essential information, clarifications, and advice on proposal preparation. We also consulted guidelines, templates, and best practices provided by the [MSCA](#) and [European Commission](#) websites. Additionally, I sought insights from other successful applicants within my network, who shared their experiences and offered recommendations for crafting a strong proposal. These combined resources greatly contributed to the development of my application, enhancing its quality and alignment with MSCA objectives.

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

Start early: Give yourself ample time to research, plan, and refine your proposal.

Seek guidance: Consult MSCA NCPs, guidelines, and successful applicants for advice.

Interdisciplinary approach: Develop a well-rounded project with broader impact.

Clear objectives: Clearly articulate your goals, expected outcomes, and societal relevance.

Networking: Connect with potential host institutions and establish strong collaborations.

Non-academic placements: Include industry exposure to enhance career prospects and practical skills.

Proofread: Ensure your proposal is polished, concise, and free of errors before submission.

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 Individual Fellowships (IF) provide opportunities to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Europe and beyond.

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.

