



ON-TRACT: recruitment for 14 Doctoral Candidates is open

















OligoNucleotide Technologies for Rapid Advancement of Cancer Therapies

The Horizon Europe programme has awarded the Doctoral Network **ON-TRACT** under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA), launching an intersectoral project to advance the use of oligonucleotides for personalised medicine. The consortium, comprising 10 top academic research groups, four companies including high-end pharmaceutical industry, a hospital and a non-profit organisation, will advance cutting-edge treatments for lung cancer, blood cancers, and chronic inflammation. The projects include tailored synthesis of novel nucleosides, sustainable synthetic methodology, developing delivery methods including non-invasive techniques, establishing *in vitro* replacement systems, and analysing efficacy in treatment. Together with the high-level research, the Doctoral Candidates (PhD students) will be equipped with a skill set that prepares them for highly successful careers in any target sector. **14 fully funded PhD positions** will be available from **early to mid 2026**.

By integrating expertise in chemistry, biology, advanced delivery systems and medicine, the project aims to create a robust framework for oligonucleotide-based therapies. This holistic strategy will not only advance the development of innovative treatments for severe diseases but also set new standards for sustainability and ethical testing in medicinal chemistry.

Consortium Partners

The consortium ON-TRACT combines interdisciplinary expertise across the life science sector with the following members:

Beneficiaries			Associate Partners		
University of Southampton		UK	AstraZeneca AB		SE
Karolinska Institutet		SE	Strike Pharma		SE
University of Cambridge		UK	PeptiSystems AB		SE
Research Institutes of Sweden AB		SE	Centre for Process Innovation Limited		UK
Uppsala Universitet		SE	Instytut Biologii Doświadczalnej im. M. Nenckiego PAN		PL
Universiteit Gent		BE	Region Gävleborg		SE
Università degli Studi di Udine		IT	Aix-Marseille Université		FR
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique		FR			
Instytut Chemii Organicznej Polskiej Akademii Nauk		PL			

14 DCs will be recruited in a structured, interdisciplinary training programme which combines academic research with industrial and health care experience. All DCs will be enrolled in a PhD programme in one of our prestigious universities.

Details about the individual projects, together with general and project specific requirements, and the application process are available on EURAXESS <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/386358>.

The recruitment is open until 28 February 2026 unless specified differently in the project description.