MSCA COFUND Fellow Networking Event

4-5 March 2026

Instituto de Salud Carlos III (Monforte de Lemos, 5 Madrid)

4 March 2026

15:00 – 15:05	**Welcome** (Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch)
EURAXESS Workshop (Salón de Actos, Seminario, Aula,)	
15:05 – 16:30	**Interactive Workshop** (Elisa García, Virginia Rodríguez, Xavier Eekhout. EURAXESS Spain BHO, FECYT) • Meet & Greet • Career Planning
16:30 – 17:00	**Coffee Break**
Research careers in Spain (Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch)	
17:00 – 17:30	**Researcher Career Path in Spain** (Elisa García, Virginia Rodríguez, Xavier Eekhout. EURAXESS Spain BHO, FECYT)

5 March 2026

Plenary session on EU funding opportunities (Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch)					
09:30 – 10:00	**MSCA PF keys for a successful proposal** (Xavier Eekhout, MSCA NCP Spain)				
10:00 – 10:30	**ERC Programme** (Leticia Riaza, Julio Marchamalo. ERC NCP Spain)				
10:30 – 11:00	**EIC Programme** (Marta Marín, EIC NCP Spain)				
Plenary session on MCAA					
11:00 – 11:30	**MCAA: activities and resources for fellows** (Joaquín Capablo. MCAA) **Artificial Intelligence in the preparation of proposals** (Ingrid Campo Ruiz, MCAA AI Working Group)				
11:30 – 12:00	**Coffee Break**				
Fellows' Networking Sessions*					
12:00 – 14:00	**LIF Panel** (Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch) **Presentation of projects and results**	**CHE Panel** (Seminario) **Presentation of projects and results**	**ENG Panel** (Aula) **Presentation of projects and results**	**PHY Panel** (Aula Laboratorio) **Presentation of projects and results**	**SOC Panel** (Sala de Juntas) **Presentation of projects and results**
14:00 – 15:00	**Networking Lunch**				
15:00 – 17:00	**LIF Panel (cont.)** (Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch) **Presentation of projects and results**	**CHE Panel (cont.)** (Seminario) **Presentation of projects and results**	**ENG Panel (cont.)** (Aula) **Presentation of projects and results**	**PHY Panel (cont.)** (Aula Laboratorio) **Presentation of projects and results**	**MSCA COFUND Programme Managers** (Sala de Juntas)
17:00 – 17:15	**Farewell**				

* See annexes for distribution of fellows

ARISTOS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101081334

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5 March 2026 Salon de Actos Ernest Lluch

Networking session in which fellows from different programmes working on research projects assigned to the panel of Life Sciences (LIF) will be able to present their projects and results to their peers. The format will be ca. 15 min presentations including questions.

FELLOWS PRESENTING THEIR PROJECTS

12:00 – 14:00

Alba Timón Gómez	ARISTOS	Universitat de València
Aline Risson Belinovski	WIT	Universidad de Navarra
Giovanni Maroli	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Irene Vázquez Domínguez	ARISTOS	Hospital Ramón y Cajal. Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Saninataria (IRYCIS)
Javier Laura Francés	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Patricia Morcillo	ARISTOS	Universidad de Extremadura
Manuel Jara Espejo	AECC Talent	VHIO

15:00 – 17:00

Marcos Daniel Machado Fragua	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Marina Corrado	ARISTOS	University of Barcelona
Sara Lorenzoni	WIT	Universidad de Navarra
Jose Antonio Valverde Lopez	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Vu Phong Dinh	IDEAL PhD	IMDEA Nanociencia
Sofia Romagnoli	ARISTOS	CIBER

PARTICIPATING FELLOWS

Gloria de Fatima Almeida Conceiçao	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Guiomar Masip	ARISTOS	CIBEROBN
Hana Matuskova	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Inés SAENZ DE SANTA MARIA FERNANDEZ	ARISTOS	Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe
Rui Miguel da Costa Adão	UNA4CAREER	Universidad Complutense de Madrid

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Joanna Kalafut	ARISTOS	Hospital del Mar Research Institute in Barcelona
Jose Garrido Mesa	AECC Talent	Fundación de Investigación Biomédica Hospital 12 de Octubre
Lilianne Beola	ARISTOS	CIBER-BBN
Lorea Jordana Urriza	WIT	CIMA Universidad de Navarra
Lucie Boulgakoff	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Maelle Locatelli	ARISTOS	CIBER-IDIBAPS
Maite Sanchez-Aparicio	ARISTOS	CIBER
Marta Cimadevila	ARISTOS	CIBER
Meng	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Niloufar Sadat Hosseini Giv	WIT	University of Navarra
Olalla Ramil		ARISTOS
Pablo Enrique Guevara Pantoja	ADAGIO	UPV/EHU
Seung Jae Shin	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC
Virginia Llopis Hernández	AECC Talent	IISLaFe
Viviane de Cássia Oliveira	ARISTOS	CIBERES - Hospital Clinic Barcelona
Xiaoxi Luo	Cure Heart & Brain	CNIC

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Alba Timón Gómez

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Universitat de València

Research topic: Development of strategies to improve the cellular uptake and endosomal escape of synthetitc therapeutic oligonucleotides for rare diseases, with a proof-of-concept in myotonic dystrophy type 1

Aline Risson Belinovski

MSCA COFUND: WIT

Research Stage: Predoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Universidad de Navarra

Research topic: Development of cytokine-based therapies for solid tumors treatment

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Giovanni Maroli

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Genetic cardiomyopathies

Gloria de Fatima Almeida Conceiçao

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Role of autophagy in postnatal cardiomyocytes and its impact on cardiac remodeling and repair. The research proposes to understand how autophagy influences cardiomyocyte fitness and contributes to maintaining heart function under stress.

Guiomar Masip

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBEROBN

Research topic: nutritional epidemiology and omic sciences

Hana Matuskova

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: NEUtrophil Responses in Organ-Specific STroke Outcomes and Regional Microenvironments (NEURO-STORM)

Inés Saenz de Santa Maria Fernandez

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe

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Research topic: Inhibition of mitochondrial transfer between non-tumor and tumor cells via tunneling nanotubes using polymer nanoconjugates

Irene Vazquez Dominguez

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Hospital Ramón y Cajal. Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Saninataria (IRYCIS)

Research topic: OCU-SCAN is a research project aimed at identifying novel biomarkers for inherited retinal dystrophies by analysing extracellular vesicles from ocular samples, with the goal of improving diagnosis and founding new therapeutic venues.

Javier Laura Francés

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Hutchinson–Gilford progeria syndrome (HGPS) is a fatal genetic disorder caused by the expression of progerin, a mutant form of lamin A that disrupts nuclear architecture and chromatin organization. These defects drive severe cardiovascular disease (CVD), characterized by accelerated atherosclerosis, vascular smooth muscle cell (VSMC) loss, arterial stiffening, and premature death.
Although epigenetic dysregulation is increasingly recognized as a key contributor to vascular pathology during physiological aging, the epigenetic mechanisms underlying HGPS-associated CVD remain poorly defined. In particular, the role of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) in mediating epigenetic dysfunction in VSMCs—the primary cellular targets of progerin toxicity—has not been investigated.
This project addresses this critical gap by examining how lncRNA-mediated epigenetic regulation contributes to VSMC dysfunction in HGPS and by evaluating lncRNA modulation as a novel therapeutic strategy. We have identified a previously uncharacterized vascular-enriched lincRNA, lncCsrp2, that is consistently upregulated in progeric VSMCs and associated with modulation of its neighboring gene, Csrp2, a key regulator of cytoskeletal organization and vascular remodeling. Functional studies demonstrate that loss of lncCsrp2 compromises VSMC viability in vitro. Together, this work establishes a mechanistic link between lncRNA dysregulation and VSMC pathology in HGPS and positions lncCsrp2 as a promising target for vascular-selective therapeutic intervention.

Joanna Kalafut

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

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Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Hospital del Mar Research Institute in Barcelona

Research topic: The role of Notch signaling in colorectal cancer

Jose Antonio Valverde Lopez

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Cardiac regeneration. Translating human pluripotent stem cell–derived cardiac therapies to improve heart failure.

Jose Garrido Mesa

MSCA COFUND: AECC Talent

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Fundación de Investigación Biomédica Hospital 12 de Octubre

Research topic: Development and validation of biespecific antibody therapies for SCLC

Lilianne Beola

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBER-BBN

Research topic: Bio Nanomedicine Applied to brain tumor anticancer research

Lorea Jordana Urriza

MSCA COFUND: WIT

Research Stage: Predoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIMA Universidad de Navarra

Research topic: scRNA-seq analysis of CAR T cells against Multiple Myeloma

Lucie Boulgakoff

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

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Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: The aim of this porject is to identify rrgulatory signals that enhance lymphangiogenesis, and to use them to improve cardiac recovery after a myocardial infarction

Maelle Locatelli

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBER-IDIBAPS

Research topic: My project explores how HBV evades immune control and establishes chronic infection. I will study viral escape during liver transplantation and use single-cell RNA sequencing to define immune cell signatures in HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B, aiming to identify predictors of treatment outcome after nucleos(t)ide analogue therapy.

Maite Sanchez-Aparicio

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBER

Research topic: Infectious disease research

Manuel Jara Espejo

MSCA COFUND: AECC Talent

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: VHIO

Research topic: Currently I am investigating how malignant cells exploit their ability to get access to multiple funcitonal programs, a process called transcriptional plasticity, in early- and late-stage tumors. We want to know which programs exist, how they are used across cancer types and how their activity is related to the genomic profile of the patients.

Marcos Daniel Machado Fragua

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

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Research topic: Alternative measures of adiposity to define obesity and risk of dementia

Marina Corrado

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: University of Barcelona

Research topic: Glycaemic impact of phenolic compounds

Marta Cimadevila

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBER

Research topic: MYELINPLUS aims to boost central nervous system myelination through activation of G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) in oligodendrocytes

Meng Zhang

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Mechanisms and therapies to promote endothelial protection against reperfusion injury

Niloufar Sadat Hosseini Giv

MSCA COFUND: WIT

Research Stage: Predoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: University of Navarra

Research topic: Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynaecological malignancy, with many cases diagnosed at advanced stages due to a lack of specific symptoms. The first-line treatment includes surgery along with chemotherapy, but relapse and chemotherapy resistance are common challenges. Many studies have proved that therapy-induced senescence (TIS) triggered by platinum drugs contributes to treatment failure, relapse, and metastasis by promoting a pro-tumour microenvironment through the senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP). Since a small number of the cells undergo cell cycle arrest and become senescent, and due to the lack of a specific marker for this cell population, finding markers

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seems to be crucial in cancer treatment. Here, we will investigate long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) as a novel marker for senescence and a potential target for developing new therapeutic approaches.

Olalla Ramil

MSCA COFUND:

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: ARISTOS

Research topic: Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients. This renal replacement therapy uses the peritoneum as a natural semipermeable filter to remove the toxins and the excess of water that the kidneys are unable to eliminate. These waste products are transferred from the bloodstream into a dialysis fluid instilled in the peritoneal cavity of the patient, which is subsequently drained and discarded. While PD is a life-sustaining treatment, continuous exposure to non-physiological dialysis fluids induces a chronic inflammatory response in the peritoneum which may progress to fibrosis, angiogenesis, and ultimately ultrafiltration failure. Previous studies recognized inflammation as a non-traditional cardiovascular risk factor in PD patients; however, the potential contribution of peritoneal damage itself to cardiovascular injury remains largely unexplored.
This project hypothesizes that peritoneal fibrosis is not only a complication of PD, but also a driver of systemic inflammation and cardiovascular damage in these patients. Therefore, this study aims to assess the impact of peritoneal injury on cardiovascular damage in PD patients through a multilayered analysis. To address this, we will characterize a molecular signature of peritoneal injury by integrating inflammatory and profibrotic mediators and investigate their association with cardiovascular damage markers and clinical outcomes using in vitro, ex vivo, and in vivo approaches. Additionally, we will evaluate the potential protective effect of a healthy diet in preserving peritoneal membrane integrity and preventing cardiovascular damage.
By bridging peritoneal pathology and cardiovascular outcomes, this study could identify novel cardiovascular damage biomarkers and open new therapeutic avenues to improve cardiovascular injury in PD patients.

Pablo Enrique Guevara Pantoja

MSCA COFUND: ADAGIO

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: UPV/EHU

Research topic: Biomedical devices and microfluidics

Patricia Morcillo

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

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Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Universidad de Extremadura

Research topic: The project AGELESS examineS whether restoring normal mitochondrial dynamics can improve neuronal resistance to age-related deterioration. The goal of this work is to advance our understanding of neuronal vitality and longevity research, ultimately contributing to the development of future therapies that prolong life expectancy.

Rui Miguel da Costa Adão

MSCA COFUND: UNA4CAREER

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Research topic: The project was designed to advance the understanding of potassium (K^+) channel dysregulation in pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and to explore the therapeutic potential of targeting these channels.

Sara Lorenzoni

MSCA COFUND: WIT

Research Stage: Predoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: Universidad de Navarra

Research topic: This research focuses on the development of targeted nanomedicine strategies for the treatment of high-risk neuroblastoma. Specifically, it investigates integrin-targeted solid lipid nanoparticles functionalized with cyclic RGD peptides to improve the selective delivery and therapeutic efficacy of etoposide. The project combines nanoparticle design, physicochemical characterization, and advanced biological validation in both 2D cell cultures and biomimetic 3D neuroblastoma tumoroid models. By enhancing tumor-specific uptake and antitumor activity while reducing off-target effects, the work aims to advance translational nanomedicine approaches for more precise and effective pediatric cancer therapies.

Seung Jae Shin

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: I am working in Miguel Angel`s(https://www.cnic.es/es/miguel-angel-pozo-barriuso), Caveolae mechanoadaptation Lab, researching about how mechanical stress modulate monocyte/macrophage mechanotransduction, leading to atherosclerosis

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progression or regression. Although it is known that mechanical stress and monocyte/macrophage activation are key risk factors for the disease progression, the underlying mechanism how these modulate atherosclerosis development is not understood well. So, my research aims to unravel the association between mechanical stress ans atherosclerosis, mainly targeting monocyte/macrophage.

Sofia Romagnoli

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBER

Research topic: Combined use of noninvasive ECGi and multiscale cardiac models to improve risk stratification in Brugada Syndrome

Virginia Llopis Hernández

MSCA COFUND: AECC Talent

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: IISLaFe

Research topic: Influence of microbiome in cancer progression

Viviane de Cássia Oliveira

MSCA COFUND: ARISTOS

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CIBERES - Hospital Clinic Barcelona

Research topic: The use of a new therapeutic approach to controlling infections, especially those caused by multidrug-resistant pathogens.

Vu Phong Dinh

MSCA COFUND: IDEAL PhD

Research Stage: Predoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: IMDEA Nanociencia

Research topic: Nucleic acid báed therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophin

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Xiaoxi Luo

MSCA COFUND: Cure Heart & Brain

Research Stage: Postdoctoral Researcher

Host organisation: CNIC

Research topic: Essential interplay between the placenta and the heart during cardiovascular development and its implications for congenital heart disease

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