The Laboratoire d’Excellence (LabEx) MAbImprove (http://mabimprove.univ-tours.fr/) is proud to launch its first call for proposals to welcome a new research team or group leader. For the year 2014, the call is a partnership with the Institut de Recherche en Cancérologie de Montpellier (IRCM, www.ircm.fr) and will be devoted to therapeutic antibodies against cancer. Both junior and senior group leader proposals will be considered.

MAbImprove is a 2-sites “Laboratoire d’excellence” (LabEx) dedicated to therapeutic antibodies (http://mabimprove.univ-tours.fr/). It was launched in 2011 with a program based on the clinical use of antibodies and which can be summarized in a few words “improved antibodies, improved development and improved used”. MAbImprove is organized in 5 WPs from clinical pharmacology, experimental pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics to new targets evaluation and innovative technologies. Based on a partnership between the Universities of Tours and Montpellier, associated with INSERM, the CNRS, the INRA, the University Hospital of Tours and the Comprehensive Cancer Hospital of Montpellier (ICM), MAbImprove LabEx federates 14 research teams and more than 200 researchers. It is based on the complementarity of both sites, as well as on a national network of academic teams involved in the project and numerous pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies directly affected by fallout from the project.

IRCM is presently composed of 12 research teams organized in two main programs: (i) therapeutic antibodies to target cancer: innovation, design & biological response; (ii) phenotypic, genetic, epigenetic and signaling plasticity of solid tumors: from discovery to personalized medicine.

IRCM is located on the campus of the Comprehensive Cancer Hospital of Montpellier (ICM, http://www.icm.unicancer.fr/fr) renowned for its clinical excellence in preventing, diagnosing and treating solid tumors. IRCM is funded by Inserm, ICM, and the University Montpellier 1 (www.univ-montp1.fr) which includes the Faculty of Medicine. It is part of the strong and rapidly growing Montpellier research and medical communities that provide an exciting, supportive and collaborative environment recently labeled as one of the 8 French Integrated Research Sites in Oncology (SIRIC).

This MAbImprove’s call is dedicated to therapeutic antibody oriented proposals which must fit in its scientific program as well as in the IRCM’s therapeutic antibodies program.

The initial support package provided by MAbImprove includes a 3-years group leader salary (for laureate without permanent position), a 3-years post doctoral fellow salary, a PhD student and starting grant. Candidates without permanent position must meet criteria to compete for national and international research funding, and for French institutional positions (INSERM, CNRS, University).

Please send by email your CV, publication list and a short description (2 pages) of research accomplishments and future plans to herve.watier@univ-tours.fr, andre.pelegrin@inserm.fr & claude.sardet@inserm.fr by March 21, 2014. Please also arrange for two letters of reference to be sent separately by email before the deadline. Prof. Hervé Watier and Dr. André Pèlegrin who manage this call will be pleased to answer to any question.

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