

Postdoctoral Position in Onco-Immunology

Despite numerous promising new treatments, breast cancer remains a deadly disease, primarily due to tumor cells forming secondary colonies in the lungs and other organs. The tumor microenvironment plays an inhibitory role in many of these new approaches. Tenascin-C is one such inhibitory component that suppresses antitumor immunity. We have developed a novel peptide tool to target tenascin-C and have found that it activates antitumor immunity, which subsequently induces tumor regression and inhibition of breast cancer cell dissemination. This peptide is a promising tool for blocking metastases in breast cancer patients, particularly those with poor-prognosis triple-negative breast cancer for whom only limited treatment options are available. Using cell culture assays and tumor graft models, we will determine whether targeting tenascin-C with the inhibitory peptide blocks lung metastases. Recent publications: Li 2024, *PNAS*; Benn 2023, *Sci Adv*, Fonta 2023, *Matrix Biol*; Loustau 2022, *Matrix Biol*; Yilmaz 2022, *J Cell Sci*; Murdamoothoo 2021, *EMBO Mol Med*; Deligne 2020, *Cancer Immun Res*; Spenle 2020, *Cancer Immun Res*.

Our international laboratory (<https://orend-tme-group.com>) is located in the center of Strasbourg and belongs to the INSERM unit 1109 dedicated to immunology research on autoimmune diseases, virology and cancer.

The postdoctoral position is offered for 36 months.

Keywords: onco-immunology, tumor immunity, tumor microenvironment, tenascin-C, targeting

Candidate profile: We are seeking a highly motivated PhD who wants to develop his/her own research project in a good team-working spirit. The candidate must be strongly motivated for comprehensive research using multiple technologies. The candidate should speak English and have knowledge and experience in cancer immunology, particularly in murine tumor models, histology, cell culture, biochemistry and flow cytometry. Specific expertise in bioinformatics is a plus.

Application: Please send a concise cover letter with a statement of research interests and a summary of previous research activity and achievements along with a detailed curriculum vitae and two reference letters to Gertraud Orend: gertraud.orend@inserm.fr.