

## **PhD student position in ULiège**

**GIGA-I3/LABORATOIRE D'HÉMATOLOGIE  
(PR FRÉDÉRIC BARON – PR YVES BEGUIN)**

**Project title:** “Role of IKK epsilon in murine acute Graft-versus-Host Disease”

**Job description:**

The project “Role of IKK epsilon in murine acute Graft-versus-Host Disease” is a 2-years project funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS Télévie. The project will be carried out under the supervision of Ludovic Belle (FNRS chargé de recherché) and Frédéric Baron and in collaboration with Alain Chariot from the Laboratory of Medical Chemistry. Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation remains the best treatment option for several hematological malignancies. Anti-tumoral efficacy of this approach is based not only on high-dose chemo/radiotherapy given in the conditioning regimen, but also on immune-mediated graft-versus-tumor effects, primarily mediated by donor T cells contained in the graft. Unfortunately, these donor immune cells can also target recipient tissues, causing the graft-versus-host disease (**GVHD**), a life-threatening complication of allo-HCT. Prior studies led to the observation that IKK epsilon is a critical regulator of CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell-mediated immunity. During this PhD thesis, the candidate will study the role of this protein in GVHD pathogenesis. The study implies *in vivo* experiments using several mouse strains and both molecular (PCR, RNA-seq, WB) and cellular techniques (multicolor flow cytometry, pathology, ELISA...).

**Profile:**

*Required diploma:* MSc (or equivalent degree) in Sciences or Biomedical Sciences with at least distinction during the cursus (including one the last year) or a great distinction in the last year of the cursus.

*Expected qualifications:*

- Highly motivated candidate willing to commit to a 4-year PhD-program
- Candidate must speak fluent French or English
- Advanced knowledge of scientific English
- Experience with experimental animal research and knowledge of animal welfare regulations is mandatory. Relevant experience in flow cytometry is a plus
- Candidate should be able to work independently and willing to interact/collaborate with other team members

**We offer:**

A 2-years full-time Doctoral Grant (F.R.S.-FNRS Télévie) beginning on October 1st, 2018 and renewable once.

**The application must include:**

- One-page statement of motivation and research interests
- Curriculum Vitae including date and grade obtained each year during the diploma
- Copies of educational certificates

Applicants must send the required documents to [f.baron@ulg.ac.be](mailto:f.baron@ulg.ac.be) before August 29<sup>st</sup>. All documents should be in English or French. Any questions related to the position can be directed to Ludovic Belle ([lbelle@uliege.be](mailto:lbelle@uliege.be) or +32 4 366 44 94) or Frederic Baron ([f.baron@ulg.ac.be](mailto:f.baron@ulg.ac.be) or +32 4 366 35 26).