

## Short term scientific mission announcement for Grant period 4 (June 2017-May 2018)

### **Title: Developing expertise in molecular methods used to study tinnitus-related stress biomarkers and strengthening European collaboration across TINNET**

**Host:** Department of ORL, Head and Neck Surgery, Charité University Hospital, Berlin, 10117, Germany (Director – Prof. Heidi Olze)

**Supervisor:** Dr Agnieszka J. Szczepek

**Goal of the Short Term Scientific Mission:** Markers that are relevant to tinnitus-induced distress can be found in blood and saliva of patients with tinnitus. Our earlier study indicated that the subclinical concentrations of pro-inflammatory cytokines correlate with the degree of emotional distress perceived by the patients, thus, making them an attractive objective marker, which could potentially be used in the individualized medical treatment and monitoring of tinnitus.

This mission would enable the visiting clinician or researcher to get familiar with the newest molecular trends in the detection of cytokines in human blood and saliva, to perform the respective experiments and to interpret the statistical significance of outcome correlation with the emotional status of patients, as measured by psychometric instruments.

**What we can offer to the grantee:** Our research is committed to the discovery of biomarkers, which could be used as objective measures for tinnitus-induced distress. Led by Dr Agnieszka Szczepek, the ORL Research Laboratory is fully equipped with necessary tools and currently hosts one research fellow, one PhD medical trainee, one MSc biotechnology trainee, three technicians/technologists and several physicians. We have expertise in molecular biology, immunology and biochemistry. We are dedicated to performing research according to good scientific practice. We are also committed to analytical and accurate interpretation of the results. An example of our work can be found here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378595514001713>

#### **Requirements of the grantee:**

This Short Term Scientific Mission would be suitable for a clinician-researcher, graduate student or early career researcher who wishes to learn about the methods in molecular biology applied in the discovery of biomarkers. A previous laboratory experience, careful attention to detail and a good level of spoken and written English and some German are essential. Active engagement with other members of the TINNET network will be encouraged.

**Duration:** This STSM is available for up to 6 weeks (42 days) available from October 2017.

**How to get in contact with the STSM supervisor:** Email [agnes.szczepek@charite.de](mailto:agnes.szczepek@charite.de)

#### **How to apply for the STSM**

Please contact Dr Agnieszka Szczepek in the first instance. If both parties agree, please request an application form from Susanne Staudinger [Susanne.Staudinger@medbo.de](mailto:Susanne.Staudinger@medbo.de).

After completion of the STSM the grantee is required to submit a scientific report (3-4 pages) on the visit within 30 days after end of the stay. Please submit the report to the STSM coordinator:

[malgorzata.wrzosek@amu.edu.pl](mailto:malgorzata.wrzosek@amu.edu.pl)