



**University of Liege, Belgium**  
GIGA - Molecular Biology of Diseases  
Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology

**Clauda ABBOUD, PhD**  
**Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow (2023-2025)**

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# Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow (2023-2025)

## Presentation:

- 2018 - 2021: PhD in Pharmacology (Canada, PhD defense: November 2021)
- 2022: Postdoctoral fellow (for 6 months) at the University of Liege in Belgium (EU)
- < 1 year in Belgium: I applied to [MSCA postdoctoral individual fellowships 2022](#) (deadline September 2022)
- [Host institution: University of Liege \(Belgium\)](#)
- Under the supervision of my postdoctoral director
- Evaluation panel: LIF (Life Sciences)
- Results: February 2023 → [MSCA postdoctoral fellowship \(24 months=2 years\)](#)
- [Total score: 95.20%](#)

# « Tips and tricks » for successful research proposals

## General aspects:

- Two months full time commitment to write the proposal
- Right background of the reasearcher to carry on the project
- Innovation and feasibility of the project
- **Make easy for the evaluators to find what they are looking for (put subtitles, write in bold, ...)**
- Show the research aspect of the project but also the training aspect (skills acquired and to be acquire)
- Highlight your achievements in the proposal
- Show your communication skills, project management, grant writing, ...
- Show the network, collaborations, consortium, ...
- Show the jump from PhD to Postdoc, mobility, ...
- Show independence, career goals, ...
- **Read the guidelines for the evaluators**

# « Tips and tricks » for successful research proposals

## Specific aspects for MSCA proposals:

### Proposal components:

- a) **Part A: administrative form** → to complete online
- b) **Part B1: Core component** (project, skills, ...) – to upload
  - Max 10 pages, font size 11, references 8pts, ...
  - 3 sections: Excellence (5 pages), impact (3pages), quality (2 pages)
- c) **Part B2: Supporting information** (CV, ...) – to upload

**Follow the rules If you want to get the fellowship**  
**There are specific guidelines regarding the form of the proposal**

# Criteria for selection of my proposal

## **Criterion 1: Excellence**

- Quality and pertinence of the research project and the extent to which they are ambitious
- Soundness of the proposed methodology
- Quality of the supervision
- Two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host
- Researcher professional experience, competences and skills

**Score = 4.60/5**

### **a) Strengths**

- Project innovative and of good quality
- Methodology was very well explained and appropriate for the objective
- Open science was clearly described
- Gender aspects were adequately considered
- The supervisor is a well-established researcher with experience in training
- The researcher was already at the host institution and implemented the project, completed several trainings ...
- The scientific experience of the researcher is multidisciplinary
- Participation to several national and international meetings

### **b) Weaknesses**

- Two-way transfer of knowledge has been insufficiently illustrated

# Criteria for selection of my proposal

## **Criterion 2: Impact**

- Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development
- Importance of the project at the scientific, societal and economical levels
- Dissemination and communication activities

**Score = 5/5**

### **a) Strengths**

- The fellowship will enhance the career perspectives and the employability of the researcher
- Increase of the international visibility of the researcher
- The work will result in high profile publications
- Collaborations and multi-disciplinary aspects of the action will increase technical and communication skills of the researcher
- Dissemination measures were demonstrated: publication of reviews and articles, presenting at international conferences
- Communication measures have been well illustrated
- The proposed work is expected to have considerable scientific impact in the area of pharmacology, endocrinology and neuroscience
- Very good societal and economic impact, application in drug discovery and pharmaceutical development

### **b) Weaknesses**

- None

# Criteria for selection of my proposal

## **Criterion 3: Implementation**

- Quality of the work plan
- Assessment of risk
- Quality and capacity of the host institution

**Score = 4.8/5**

### **a) Strengths**

- The work plan was clearly described and appropriate
- The assessment of risk is well thought-through
- The proposed mitigation strategies were suitable for addressing the potential risks
- The host institution has the necessary facilities and excellent capacity to support the planned research
- Hosting arrangements, including integration and support services are available to the researcher

### **b) Weaknesses**

- No alternative scenarios for one of the work packages

# Acknowledgements

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship



## **Host Institution:**

**University of Liège, Belgium**

GIGA - Molecular Biology of Diseases

Molecular Pharmacology Lab (supervisor Dr Julien Hanson)

## **MSCA National contact point (Belgium):**

Mme Nadège Ricaud

*Thank you for your attention*