

Ghent University/University Hospital offers to join a consortium for H2020-JTI-IMI2-2019-18-two-stage

Expression of interest to join a consortium for the call - H2020-JTI-IMI2-2019-18-two-stage - Supporting the development of engineered T cells (deadline first stage - September 26th)

Topic of focus: Development of communication tools for patients and healthcare providers on engineered T cells.

Who we are?

Our team at the Ghent university faculty of 'Medicine and Health Sciences' is headed by the haematologist Prof. Dr. Tessa Kerre. Prof. Dr. Tessa Kerre coordinates research on T-cell therapy for acute myeloid leukemia and leads the social outreach committee. She co-authored more than 50 A1 articles and is the principal investigator of several clinical studies, both academic and pharma-initiated. She won more than ten scientific prizes, of which 2 for science communication. Prof. Dr. Tessa Kerre is also the clinic head of 'The stem cell transplant centre' at the Ghent university hospital.

What can we offer to the consortium?

Explaining the immune system and how immunotherapy works to patients and caregivers is challenging because of the extreme complexity. Therefore, the team of Prof. Kerre has developed in 2017 Immuno-T, a motion comic, to educate patients and caregivers. (<http://immuno-t.inmotion.care/en/>) The communication tool, Immuno-T, explains in a unique, engaging, easy-to-understand and clear way the genesis of cancer and the working mechanisms of three types of immunotherapy (checkpoint inhibitors, CAR T-cells en BiTes). It combines a digital comic with animation sound effects, voice-over and a musical score. The format of the motion comic appeals to all ages. It does not require foreknowledge and the user can go through it at his/her own pace. We now aim to evaluate objectively whether Immuno-T increases the health literacy of patients and caregivers, improves communication between patients, caregivers and physicians/health care team and whether it has an impact on decision making by the patients and ultimately on their wellbeing .

We are sure that our current work forms a solid basis to be able to accommodate and achieve excellence in fulfilling the requirements for optimizing the communication tools as defined by the call. By establishing and promoting effective communication tools, that are supportive for all stakeholders of the immunotherapy community, a better understanding of immunotherapy can be achieved. This will increase awareness among HCPs and reduce patients' concerns thereby also facilitating a broader access to the engineered T cell treatment. We can offer to the consortium our experiences and dedication to effective communication on immunotherapy and can build further on our already existing communication platform.

Furthermore, also the expert knowledge and clinical experiences present within our team will be of benefit to the other partners for reaching their goals within the consortium.

Please feel free to contact us:

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