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Cooperation strategy for knowledge transfer, internationalization and curricula innovation in the field of research education at the 3rd level of study – AURORA

ROMANIA-ICELAND Joint training seminar for PhD students
University of Iceland

November 29th – December 3rd, 2022

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Training AGENDA

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Tuesday, November 29th, 2022	-	*Travel and arrival of the participants*	*Reykjavik*
Wednesday, November 30th, 2022	*13.00-18.00*	*Workshop: Knowledge transfer, internationalization, and curricula innovation*	*University of Iceland School of Health Sciences - Aula*

Workshop AGENDA

Speaker	***University***	***Title of the presentation***
Ottar Rolfsson	*University of Iceland*	*Metabolic Systems biology*
Ari Jon Arason	*University of Iceland*	*Beyond PhD in molecular biology*
Ciprian Tomuleasa	*UMFIH Cluj-Napoca*	*The experience of a clinician scientist*
Cofee break		
Maria Iacobescu	*UMFIH Cluj-Napoca*	*MedFuture Research Center Infrastructure*
Rares Drula	*UMFIH Cluj-Napoca*	*Molecular Biology for PhD students*

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Ottar Rolfsson, Metabolic Systems biology

Ottar Rolfsson obtained a BS degree in Biochemistry from the University of Iceland in 2001. Following work as a Research associate at Decode Genetics from 2001-2003, he obtained a masters degree in Organic Synthesis in 2005. Óttar graduated with a PhD from the Astbury Center of Structural Molecular Biology at The University of Leeds in 2009. His work involved investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying virus capsid assembly. He worked as a postdoc at the Center for Systems Biology from 2009 until 2011 before becoming joint Assistant Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology within the Medical Department and within the Center for Systems Biology. Óttar is currently chairman of the Icelandic Chemical Society.

Ottar Rolfsson presented the importance of the metabolic system biology and the current methods to analyze the metabolism in platelet concentrates during storage.

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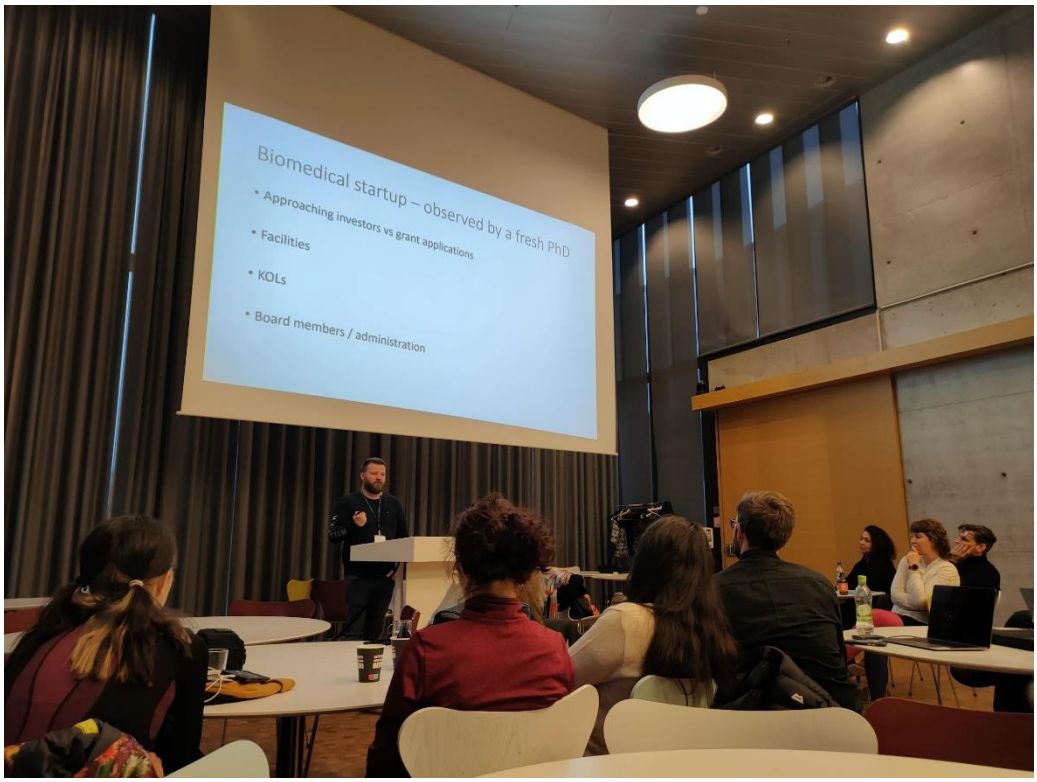
Ari Jon Arason, Beyond PhD in molecular biology



Ari Jon Arason is a PhD student from University of Iceland, studying towards a PhD degree at Stem Cell Research Unit at Department of Medicine under supervision of Dr. Magnus Karl Magnusson and Dr. Thorarinn Gudjonsson. His project focuses on exploring the role of p63 in human bronchial epithelium, utilizing basal cells cultured in Air-liquid Interface.

Ari Jon Arason presented his experience as a PhD student in Iceland highlighting the main benefits, but also challenges that he faced up until now in his career. He also showed the main research facilities for PhD students in molecular biology and also the opportunities in terms of funding.

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Ciprian Tomuleasa, The experience of a clinician scientist

Ciprian Tomuleasa is a physician scientist from UMPIH with a background of 13 years in basic and translational research in oncology and hematology. He started showing interest in biomedical research during his 3rd year of medical school in Cluj Napoca when he started his own project in which he aimed to isolate and characterize cancer stem-like cells from solid malignancies. Ciprian Tomuleasa continued his training in translationale at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He received the Iuliu Hatieganu Award from his institution for the best Ph.D. thesis in 2014 and represented Romania at the 2014 Lindau Nobel Prize Laureate Meeting in Lindau, Germany.

Ciprian Tomuleasa presented the perspective of a clinician that also develops research projects and highlighted the main aspects of these joint careers through the presentation of his latest work on CAR T cell therapy.

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Maria Iacobescu, MedFuture Research Center Infrastructure

Maria Iacobescu is a Researcher at the UMPIH with a focus on Proteomics and Metabolomics. She earned her PhD in the field of Pharmacy-Biomedical Sciences in 2017. Her scientific background is mirrored by proteomics traineeship at the Interfaculty Institute of Genetics and Functional Genomics, Greifswald, Germany under the supervision of Prof. Uwe Völker and Dr. Elke Hammer. Maria's scientific achievements are fully focused on the development, optimization and application of proteomics based analytical methods for the study of proteins from, but not limited to, clinical relevant samples for biomarker discovery.

Maria Ilies presented the infrastructure of Research Center for Advanced Medicine – Medfuture from Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy. This is the main infrastructure used by PhD students from UMFIH that wish to perform studies in the area of molecular biology.

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Rares Drula, Molecular Biology for PhD students

Rares Drula is a biologist-scientist currently pursuing a PhD in Molecular Medicine at UMPIH. His main interest revolve around non-coding RNAs, extracellular vesicles, scientific illustration and writing, scientific awareness and communication. He has international trainings at MD Anderson Cancer Center where he worked with Prof. George Calin of non-coding RNAs and Rappaport Research Institute in Medical Sciences where he collaborated withNobel Laureate Prof. Ciechanover learning how to make lentiviral constructs.

Rares Drula presented his experience as a PhD student in Romania, but also his international trainings that helped him developing his PhD project. Rares talked about the main challenges that he faced during the doctoral studies and the current situation of his research.

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AURORA PHD STUDENTS AT THE ROMANIA-ICELAND TRAINING

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Training AGENDA

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Thursday, December 1st, 2022	*9.00-13.00*	*Visit of the Stem cell research Unit* *- Visit of the infrastructure* *-Learning about the specific use of the infrastructure: type of protocols, type of samples and expected results* *- Practical examples about how the Iceland PhD students are using the infrastructure in their thesis* *- Q and A session*	*The Biomedical Center (BMC) – University of Iceland*
	13.00-14.00	*Project meeting with Prof. Jón Þór Bergþórsson* *- PhD in Iceland* *- Training opportunities in Iceland* *- Collaboration opportunities at the PhD level*	

The Biomedical Center (BMC) – University of Iceland is an official collaboration between research groups working in biomedical molecular life sciences within the University, the National Hospital, Reykjavik University, and other research institutions.

Stem cell and developmental research at the BMC is highly diverse. It includes topics such as studies on molecular mechanisms regulating stem cells and development and fundamental mechanisms involved in gene expression and cell signalling. The groups use various experimental model systems such as mouse, zebrafish, Drosophila and 3D organoids as well as embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells.

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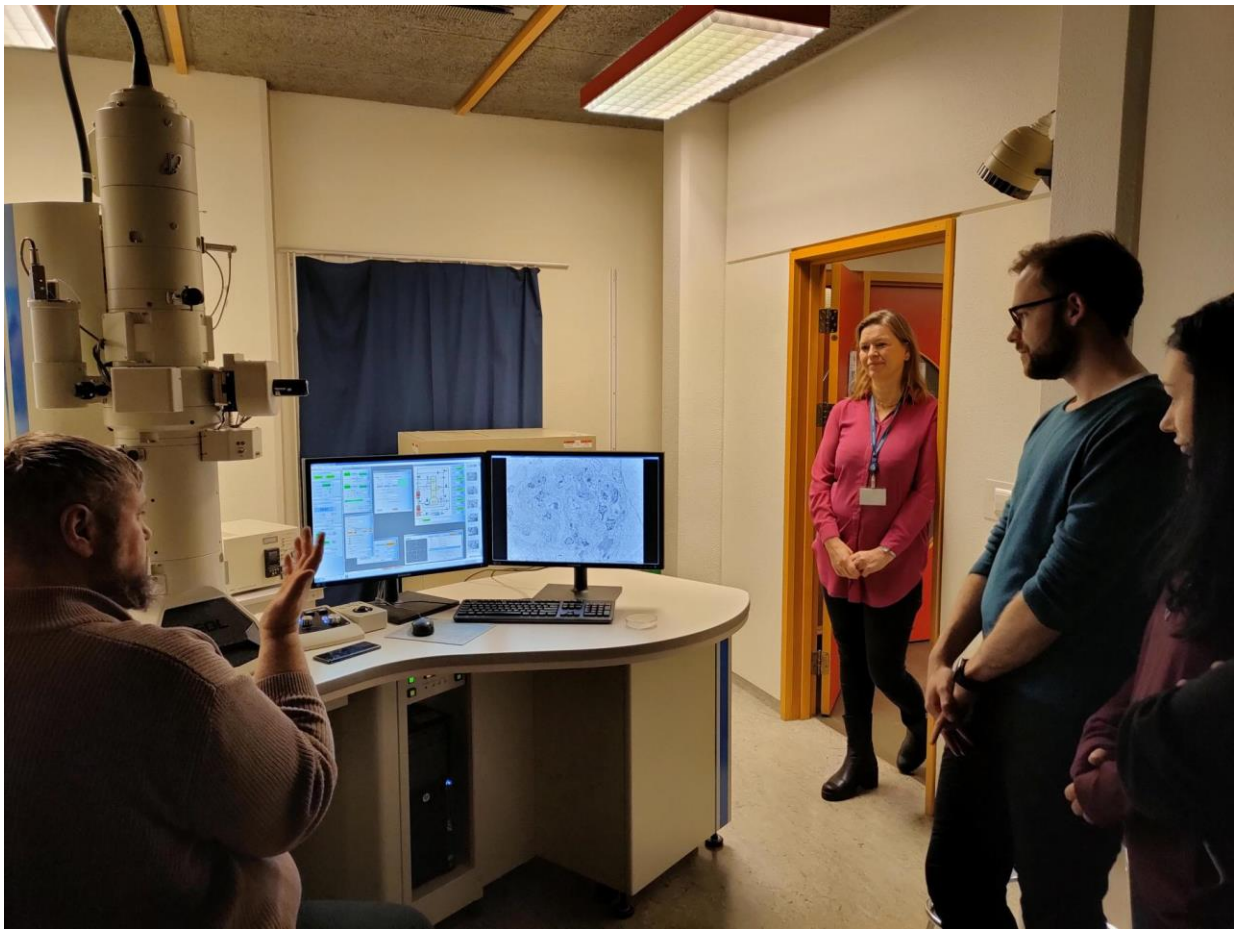
AURORA PHD STUDENTS AT THE STEM CELL RESEARCH UNIT FROM THE BIOMEDICAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



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Training AGENDA

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Friday, December 2nd, 2022	*9.00-13.00*	*Visit of deCODE genetics Center* *- Visit of the infrastructure* *- Learning about the workflow of the Center and the importance of protocol standardisation in gene discovery* *- Learning about the key genes discovered at the deCODE Center and their significance for human health*	*Reykjavik*
	13.00-14.00	*Project meeting with Prof. Jón Þór Bergþórsson* *- Human sample collection, sample processing and sample storage* *- Importance of standardization in sample management* *- Online data about human tissue in the lack of an extensive biobank for the PhD studies*	

Headquartered in Reykjavik, Iceland, deCODE is a global leader in analyzing and understanding the human genome. Using their unique expertise and population resources, deCODE has discovered key genetic risk factors for dozens of common diseases ranging from cardiovascular disease to cancer.

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The center operates the most productive human gene discovery engine in the world, employing its discoveries to identify genetic variations associated with human disease.

AURORA PHD STUDENTS AT THE deCODE GENETICS CENTER, ICELAND

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Training AGENDA

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Saturday, December 3nd, 2022	-	*Departure of the participants*	*Iceland-Romania*

Disclaimer: This training was realized with the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 financial support through the project Cooperation strategy for knowledge transfer, internationalization and curricula innovation in the field of research education at the 3rd level of study – AURORA. Its content (text, photos, videos) does not reflect the official opinion of the Programme Operator, the National Contact Point, and the Financial Mechanism Office. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the authors.