

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION OF MONOGUTHEALTH

The **MonoGutHealth** project will provide an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international training experience for you as an early stage researcher (ESR). Together with 10 other ESRs, you will be involved in projects exploring novel strategies employing nutritional and/or bioactive ingredients that positively influence perinatal development in monogastrics through optimal microbial colonisation of the gut. Ultimately, the **MonoGutHealth** project aims to promote optimal growth of pigs and chickens and at the same time make them more resilient to environmental and health challenges, reduce the number of medicinal interventions and improve animal welfare.

## POSITION ON NUTRITIONAL AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY OF PIGLETS BORN INTO LARGE LITTERS (PREFERRED START DATE: 1/12/2022; DURATION: 20 MONTHS)

The objective of this position is to develop nutritional and management strategies that improve the health, growth and efficiency of piglets born into large litters and reared in the absence of antimicrobials and pharmacological levels of zinc oxide and copper. Areas to be assessed will include: (1) Identifying the influence of vaginal, faecal and colostrum/milk microbiome populations on the composition of piglets' gut microbiota during lactation and subsequent stages; (2) Early identification of piglets and litters at risk of increased mortality due to reduced immunity uptake from the sow and/or inappropriate gut microbiome colonisation and; (3) Evaluating probiotic administration to the sow and/or progeny as a replacement for antimicrobials and pharmacological levels of zinc oxide and copper in pig diets.

You will be based at the Teagasc Pig Production Department at Moorepark, Fermoy in Ireland where you will be supervised by Dr. Paul Cormican and Dr. Peadar Lawlor. You will be co-supervised by Prof. Gillian Gardiner (South East Technological University, Ireland) and Dr. Ramon Muns (AFBI, Northern Ireland).

As well as the many training schools available to you as an ESR in the MonoGutHealth project, you will receive specific training in sow milk analysis at FBN Germany.

## THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLY FOR PARTICIPATION IN A MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORK (MSCA-ITN) - MONOGUTHEALTH

There are strict eligibility requirements for the ESR positions in MSCA-ITN. Please ensure that you qualify before applying, as ineligible candidates cannot be considered.

Applicants should not have resided or performed their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the Republic of Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 year-period immediately prior to the start date of the position

Applicants for the ESR positions should be within the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctorate. This 4 year period is measured from the date of obtaining the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate programme.

## BENEFITS

By participating in the **MonoGutHealth** consortium, you will obtain adequate training in scientific and soft skills through participation in targeted courses. You will also get the opportunity to collaborate with other ESRs in the **MonoGutHealth** network of 6 European countries and you will be exposed to industry and build a lasting network for your future career in academia and/or industry. You will be carefully supervised by 4 experienced leading academic and industrial representatives. You will obtain many additional skills to help you in your future career to traverse traditional discipline boundaries, identify and implement the most appropriate tools to comprehensively overcome pressing future challenges in academia and/or industry. Information for MSC-ITN fellows can be found at [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/resources/document-libraries/information-note-fellows-innovative-training-networks-itn\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/resources/document-libraries/information-note-fellows-innovative-training-networks-itn_en)

## SELECTION PROCESS

You can apply for this ESR position no later than 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by sending the following information to [recruit@teagasc.ie](mailto:recruit@teagasc.ie). It is essential that you include 'MonoGutHealth ESR10' in the subject line of your application.

- your complete CV
- motivation letter\*

- copies of University Bachelors/Masters certificates or
- contact details of two referees, who can provide a letter of recommendation
- A General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) statement\*\*

\* Points to be included in the motivation letter (maximum 600 words)

- Describe what about the advertised position particularly interests you, why you want to apply for it and why you should be considered for the ESR position.
- Indicate why you want to pursue this opportunity and not take a job in industry.
- Explain why you think it is important to improve animal welfare and efficiency in livestock production.
- Describe your experience of working with experimental animals, if any, and why animal experiments need to be performed.

\*\* You consent that your personal data will be processed by the MonoGutHealth project consortium for considering your application for the ESR position.

For more information please contact Dr. Peadar Lawlor by email ([peadar.lawlor@teagasc.ie](mailto:peadar.lawlor@teagasc.ie)) and reference 'MonoGutHealth ESR10' in the title.

#### QUALIFICATIONS EXPERIENCE & COMPETENCIES

- Applicants must have a relevant Master's degree in Agricultural Science, Animal Science or Veterinary Science or related discipline, with relevant animal and laboratory experience such as execution of animal trials, statistical analysis and microbiome analysis
- Applicants whose first language is not English must submit evidence of competency in English; please see [SETU's English Language Requirements](#) for details.
- It is desirable that applicants have successfully completed training that allows them to carrying out authorised (licensable) procedures on animals in the EU as described at the link below [aut-g0118-guide-to-training-education-and-competency-requirements-under-scientific-animal-protection-legislation-v4.pdf \(hpra.ie\)](#)